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WILLIAM HOWARD/Stars and Stripes

Airmen prepare joint direct attack munitions for flight-line delivery during a four-day combat ammunition production exercise hosted by the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England, on Tuesday. Bombs built during the exercise were broken down into original components and used in new cycles of mass production.

ONE TO BUILD ON

US airmen crank out 40,000 pounds of bombs during exercise in England

BY WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Munitions teams from across U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa are producing about 40,000 pounds of bombs this week — the largest amount ever made by U.S. service-members at Lakenheath during an exercise, officials said.

The combat ammunition production exercise hosted by the 48th Fighter Wing, which began Monday, included more than 160 airmen from seven different Air Force units building ordnance for F-15 Eagle sorties.

The four-day intensive exercise on creating live munitions in an austere environment provided planning and production techniques normally seen only at the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

SEE BUILD ON PAGE 7

Trump: Supporting tiny NATO ally Montenegro could start 'World War III'

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — President Donald Trump cast new doubt on his willingness to come to the defense of NATO allies Tuesday when he said a small member state could provoke a conflict that could start "World War III."

Trump, during an interview on a Fox News talk show Tuesday, was asked by host Tucker Carlson why his son should come to the defense of tiny Montenegro, NATO's newest member.

"I understand what you are saying," Trump said. "I've asked the same question."

Last week, Trump gave his backing to

NATO after a contentious meeting of heads of state in Brussels, where the U.S. president reportedly threatened to go it alone if members didn't spend 2 percent of their respective gross domestic products on defense.

By the end, Trump said he was satisfied with the commitments made by members and that NATO was now "much stronger"

and a "fine-tuned machine."

Still, doubts have lingered among NATO watchers about Trump's underlying commitment to the alliance's Article 5 collective defense provision that an attack on one member equals an attack on all.

"Montenegro is a tiny country with very strong people," Trump said.

SEE WORLD WAR III ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

In long run, 173rd Airborne soldiers are ready

Vicenza relay race takes grueling turn in nod to brigade's changing mission

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Spider-Man costumes and lederhosen were out. Regulation athletic attire or combat uniforms, rucksacks and rifles were in.

Easy laps around the track were out. Jumping hurdles and climbing ropes were in.

Beer was definitely out. Gatorade and water, in.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade's 24-hour relay race, the Running of the Herd, has changed from its laid-back Vicenza inception in November 2013, complete with costumes and adult beverages, to this year's grueling competition on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Back then, participants said, it was principally about camaraderie and fun, while highlighting teamwork to honor the courage and sacrifice of brigade soldiers

killed in a 1965 battle in Vietnam called Operation Hump.

Members of the brigade themselves had returned only months before from Afghanistan — after the brigade's fifth combat deployment since 2003, in which nine paratroopers were killed. More than 46 teams participated in a mostly lighthearted event on the battle's 48th anniversary.

Now, after four years of deploying to training and exercises in the Baltics and Eastern Europe, the focus has changed.

"It's all about combat readiness, lethality, agility," said Lt. Col. John Hall, a brigade spokesman.

Even the meaning of the race has changed over the past five years. Rather than honoring the Operation Hump casualties, the race is now dedicated to all members of the brigade killed in war.

"We're saying to all our prior generations, 'Thank you for all you've done and thank you for your sacrifice,'" said Maj. Christopher Bradley, another brigade spokesman.

This year, 15 teams, each comprising five to seven participants, ran the 2.3-mile course, taking turns all day and night until Wednesday morning. Among them were four hard-core "heavy" teams that ran — and jumped hurdles and climbed ropes — in their combat uniforms while carrying their 35-pound backpacks and rifles in the July heat.

Lt. Will Cooperider was tracking their lap times on whiteboard to "identify trends," he said. "I



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

A paratrooper carries his 35-pound backpack and rifle as he runs in the 173rd Airborne Brigade's annual 24-hour memorial relay race, the Running of the Herd, on Tuesday at Caserma Del Din, Italy.

was a physics major, what can I say?"

One team consisted of paratroopers from the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 91st Cavalry Regiment, who'd been bused down from Germany for the event. They were doing their laps — each on deck about once every 90 minutes — in regulation athletic attire. It was 87 degrees, and they were soaked by sweat and the water they'd asked people to throw on them as they passed by.

"It's a good break, and it's nice to be part of the brigade," Sgt. Alexander Perez said.

Perhaps the team closest in spirit to the first Vicenza race was one of paratroopers' wives and a daughter, who seemed unconcerned about the competition.

"We've passed a lot," spouse



Participant Lt. Andrew Klock lies in the grass in apparent discomfort.

Sarah Ochs said.

The race was inspired by the country music duo Big & Rich's 2006 song "8th of November," about the battle that pitted companies of the 173rd and a battal-

ion of Australians against some 1,200 Viet Cong fighters in which 49 brigade soldiers died.

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Correction

Due to an editing error, a name was misspelled in an article in Wednesday's edition headlined "US soldiers help South Korean accident victim during drive to Camp Humphreys." Col. Editha Ruiz is deputy commander for nursing at Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea.

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MILITARY

Polar fitness app tracked US military users

By REBECCA TAN
The Washington Post

A team of Dutch reporters discovered that a second fitness app was divulging sensitive information about U.S. servicemembers.

Less than seven months ago, a group of journalists and internet sleuths reported that the fitness-tracking application Strava was revealing highly sensitive information about U.S. military personnel around the world, including in Iraq and Syria. The security breach, which alarmed lawmakers and Pentagon officials, prompted the U.S. military to launch a review of its guidelines for wireless devices at military facilities.

Now, a group of reporters in the Netherlands has found another fitness app that may have leaked

U.S. military personnel at even greater risk.

Until recently, a fitness app called Polar allowed virtually anyone to access the names, addresses and activities of thousands of soldiers and secret agents, wrote reporters at *De Correspondent*, a Dutch news website, and *Bellingcat*, a site that publishes citizen-journalist investigations. In an article published last week, the reporters explained how they were easily able to procure the personal information of more than 6,460 U.S. military and security personnel, including people working at the National Security Agency and the U.S. Secret Service.

Like Strava, Polar created an activity map that showed the exact routes where users exercised. But Polar also tracked and

consolidated all the sessions of any single user onto that same map. By simply clicking on a user's profile, the reporters were able to access that user's routes, heart rates and activities going as far back as 2014, making it far easier to follow any single user in Polar than it had been in Strava.

Screenshots provided to *The Washington Post* confirmed that the journalists were able to track the running histories of users stationed at military bases overseas, including Guantanamo Bay Naval Base and Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, the primary base of operations for U.S. Africa Command in the Horn of Africa.

Given that most users tend to turn their fitness trackers on or off when leaving or entering their homes, government personnel on Polar not only revealed where

they worked but also "unwittingly marked" their houses on the map," Dutch researcher Foeke Postma said in a post for *Bellingcat*.

"Strava allowed people to identify sites ... but this one here centers in on the individuals that work at that site and where they live," said Eric Vanderburg, the vice president of the cybersecurity consulting division at TCDDI, a software company. The risk posed by Polar for individual users was "definitely more significant," he said.

It is unclear whether Polar is as widely used as Strava, which reportedly adds 1 million new users every 40 days. Dimitri Tokmetzis of *De Correspondent* estimated that Polar has more than 30 million users, adding that the app is popular in Western Europe — particularly in France — as well

as in the United States.

U.S. Army Maj. Audricia McKinney Harris, a spokeswoman for the Defense Department, said Pentagon officials are aware that a "large" number of the department's employees use Polar but do not know the exact number.

A week after the Dutch reporters made contact with Polar with their findings, the Finnish company suspended the "Explore" function that allowed people to see user information, the *Verge* reported.

Following the Strava incident in January, the Defense Department announced that it would review guidelines for GPS-enabled devices. Harris said the review is still in progress. A new policy for Defense Department employees is expected "soon," she said, but she declined to provide a more specific timeline.



SUSAN WASH/AP

The military's own all-stars

Medal of Honor recipients are introduced before the Major League Baseball All-Star Game on Tuesday in Washington. Medal of Honor recipient James McClough threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Security drives concern over immigrant recruits

By GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press

The Defense Department's concerns about an immigrant recruitment program have been outlined in documents filed in lawsuits brought by recruits facing discharge from the military.

On Tuesday, the Army reversed its decision to discharge Lucas Calixto, who sued when he was booted from the Army Reserve last month. The Brazilian said the Defense Department hadn't given him a chance to defend himself or appeal when he was discharged.

Calixto is one of dozens of immigrant recruits and reservists who attorneys said have faced often unexplained military discharges and canceled contracts.

They had enlisted under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, known as MAVNI, through which immigrants were offered the prospect of U.S. citizenship. The program ul-



Calixto

timately was suspended.

The reversal comes as the Defense Department has attempted to strengthen security requirements for the program.

"There are significant risks from insider threats such as espionage, terrorism and other criminal activity across the program," Pentagon spokesman Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason.

Government attorneys called the recruitment program an "elevated security risk" in another case involving 17 foreign-born military recruits who enlisted through the program but have not been able to clear additional security requirements. Some recruits had falsified their background

records and were connected to state-sponsored intelligence agencies, the court filing said.

Eligible recruits are required to have legal status in the U.S., such as a student visa, before enlisting. More than 5,000 immigrants were recruited into the program in 2016, and an estimated 10,000 are currently serving. Nearly 110,000 members of the Armed Forces have gained citizenship by serving in the U.S. military since Sept. 11, 2001, according to the Defense Department.

Since 2013, however, more than 20 recruits to the MAVNI program had become the subjects of counterintelligence or criminal investigations by the Defense Department or FBI, according to the court filing.

Gleason could not say how many of those recruits had been charged with or convicted of crimes, nor did she provide details as to how such figures compared with those for U.S. citizen servicemembers.

House lawmakers call for end to defense funding disruptions

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House on Tuesday passed several legislative measures to draw attention to defense funding disruptions that some lawmakers contend have helped fuel a crisis in military readiness.

As two annual defense bills are negotiated by members of Congress, House lawmakers debated several resolutions that argued gaps in military spending, which resulted in nine temporary funding measures in recent years, have led to a rash of ship and aircraft crashes that killed dozens of servicemembers.

The sponsors, who were all Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee, hoped their resolutions would encourage Congress to stay on track in passing this year's defense policy and spending plans, which are nearing the final stages of the congressional bill process. Unlike a legislative bill, a resolution is a nonbinding measure and expresses a chamber's commitment on a particular issue. The resolutions on Tuesday were passed by voice vote.

"Failing to provide full, on time, stable funding increases the risk to our servicemembers and aids our adversaries," said Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., a key sponsor of one of the House resolutions considered Tuesday. "We must stop forcing our men and women to uniform to pay the price for our dysfunction."

In all, the House on Tuesday considered three House resolutions — H.Res. 995, H.Res. 998 and H.Res. 994 — that state the United States is facing its most complex and grave threats since World War II and a lack of fund-

ing puts servicemembers and national security at risk. More so, as a result of spending disruptions, readiness shortfalls face the Navy and Marine Corps. Next week, the lower chamber is slated to consider similar measures for the Army and Air Force.

Since the 2011 Budget Control Act, defense and nondefense funding has been held to budgetary caps in an attempt to rein in spending and address the climbing U.S. deficit. With that effort in place, lawmakers have looked at reduced spending for the military and struggled to pass on-time budgets, resulting in a series of stopgap spending bills otherwise known as continuing resolutions.

"Continuing resolutions clearly harm our troops, and there have been far too many of them in recent years," Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday following passage of the resolutions. "The House has now voted to reject doing further damage this fall and to fully fund our military on time for the first time in a decade. To do anything less is a clear breach of faith with our troops and abdication of Congress's responsibility under the Constitution."

This year, Congress reached a two-year deal to lift the spending caps which has sped up consideration of the defense policy and spending plans. The National Defense Authorization Act, which sets policy, is now in conference committee to hammer out House and Senate differences in their approved versions of the bill. The House passed its defense appropriations bill last month by a 359-49 vote, while the Senate has yet to vote on their measure.

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PACIFIC

Award winner takes command at Misawa Air Base

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

An award-winning aviator has assumed command of the 3900-strong 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Col. Kristopher Struve became the wing's 66th commander Monday when he accepted the unit colors from Col. Scott Jobe during a morning ceremony at a VIP hangar on base.

"I ask you to serve with honor, excellence and the drive to win," he told troops assembled for the ceremony, according to an Air Force statement. "My job is to ensure you have everything you need to complete the mission."

It's Struve's third assignment at Misawa and his fourth in Japan.

During previous tours he served as a flight commander, wing weapons officer, director of operations and a squadron commander. Struve's most recent assignment was leading the 8th Operations Group at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

Struve won the prestigious Mackay Trophy for the "most meritorious flight" of 2007. The award recognized Struve's 11-hour mission in an F-16 Fighting Falcon launched from Iraq in support of ground troops in Afghanistan and covering the same distance as a round trip from Los Angeles to New York.

Jobe's next assignment takes him to the Pentagon, where he will serve as chief of the Program Integration Division.

During his tenure at America's northernmost outpost in Japan, engineers began extensive repairs to Misawa's runway and Japan Air Self-Defense Force units there received the country's first shipment of F-35A stealth fighters.

"The special relationship Team Misawa members have with their local counterparts has certainly flourished under Jobe's leadership," Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander, who presided over the change of command, said in an Air Force statement.

"In short, Jobe has left the 35th in outstanding shape."

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COLLETTE BROOKS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander, left, passes the guidon to Col. Kristopher Struve, 35th Fighter Wing commander, at Misawa Air Base, Japan, on Monday.

US sailors evacuate Chinese mariner in medical distress near Guam

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

A Chinese commercial mariner is in stable condition thanks to the efforts of a group of U.S. sailors near Guam.

About 12:35 p.m. Sunday, the U.S. Coast Guard alerted sailors assigned to the Guam-based Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 to a Chinese mariner suffering "life-threatening" symptoms aboard the Belgian cargo

ship Wangaratta, a Navy statement said.

HSC-25 crewmembers, including aircraft commander Lt. Samantha Telles-Goins, headed for the ship about 120 miles west of Guam. They brought the distressed mariner aboard for an airlift evacuation.

"This was my first lifesaving Medical Evacuation as a member of HSC-25," Telles-Goins said in the statement. "Seeing all of my training pay off successfully was a very rewarding experience."

The sailors took the mariner to Naval Hospital Guam, and he was later transferred to Guam Memorial Hospital for treatment, according to the Navy statement.

The Navy said Sunday's incident marked the 21st time the sea combat squadron has responded to an emergency call from the Coast Guard assigned to Guam. It was also the seventh time the squadron recovered a survivor during search and rescue or medical evacuations this year, the statement

said.

This was the second time recently that the Navy made headlines for rescue efforts. On July 11, a Navy P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft was used to find a fishing boat lost in the Indian Ocean after the Sri Lankan navy asked for help. Six fishermen were rescued from the missing boat as a result of sailors' efforts.

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THE NEW SANNO

PACIFIC

Crash leads S. Korean military to ground helos

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The South Korean military grounded dozens of new helicopters after five marines were killed in a crash during a test flight, officials said Wednesday.

The amphibious MUH-1 helicopter was being test-flown after repairs when it plunged to the landing strip from about 33 feet in the air, then caught fire on Tuesday at a marine base in the southeastern city of Pohang, according to a statement.

The marines banned flights for the three other MUH-1 choppers in the fleet pending the results of an investigation into the cause of the crash.

South Korea's army also grounded more than 90 KUH-1 Surion helicopters, which was the original model used for the marine variant, amid safety concerns.

Closed-circuit TV footage of the crash released by the marines shows the helicopter's rotor blades being separated from the



KIM JUN-BUM, YONHAP/AP

South Korean soldiers inspect the site of a helicopter crash Tuesday on a runway at Pohang, South Korea, airport. Five people were killed, the Defense Ministry said.

fuselage shortly after takeoff, the Yonhap News Agency reported.

The five killed were identified Wednesday as a 46-year-old lieutenant colonel who was the pilot, a 37-year-old major who was the co-pilot, a 27-year-old gunnery sergeant who was a technician and two stewards including a 22-year-old staff sergeant and a 21-year-old corporal.

A 43-year-old master sergeant was hospitalized with injuries.

The deceased were posthumously promoted by one rank.

The helicopters, which can be used to transport personnel and equipment, were produced by local defense firm Korea Aerospace Industries, or KAI, and delivered in the first half of this year, according

to Yonhap.

KAI was quoted as saying it's willing to cooperate with the investigation if asked and expressed condolences for those killed.

The military said a joint investigation team has been formed with 23 members from the marine corps, navy, air force, army and the defense agency for technology and quality.

It was the second fatal crash involving South Korean military aircraft in more than three months. An F-15K Slam Eagle crashed into a mountain on April 5, killing the two pilots.

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Japanese military plane's tires burst in landing on Okinawa

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Burst tires on a Japanese military plane shut down Okinawa's main airport for an hour and 40 minutes Tuesday evening.

A Japan Air Self-Defense Force E-2C Hawkeye early warning aircraft was landing at Naha Airport about 5:38 p.m. when two of its tires burst and the aircraft came to rest blocking the runway, according to a Japanese military spokesman.

"We are investigating why the tires burst," he said. "All (Japanese) E-2C aircraft are grounded until they check the aircraft's safety."

There were no injuries among the five crewmembers on board the plane, which is assigned to Naha Air Base. The airport reopened at 7:19 p.m. following runway safety checks, he said.

More than 50 flights were canceled or delayed during the closure, affecting 1,500 travelers, the Okinawa Times newspaper reported.

Last month there was a close call when a pair of Japanese F-15 fighter jets scrambling from Naha were deemed at "very high risk" of colliding with a commercial passenger plane that was waved off by air traffic controllers as it approached the airport.

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MILITARY

India joins US and Japan for annual minesweeping drills

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — India is practicing mine countermeasure techniques with the United States and Japan off Aomori prefecture.

The annual 2JA mine countermeasure exercise kicked off Wednesday and is expected to run through July 30. The exercise traditionally involves only the U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, but this year the Indian Navy sent four explosive ordnance disposal divers to participate with 20 others sent by the U.S. and Japan, according to the JMSDF.

Participants are using sonar equipment to detect mines hidden in the water, a Navy statement said. Those assigned to explosive ordnance disposal units will practice diving operations.

The exercise will end with a drill between the U.S. and Japan during which the countries will “coordinate and communicate to ensure a safe route through simulated mines,” the statement said.

Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of Amphibious Force 7th Fleet, said the exercise helps the forces keep oceans free and safe.

“The mine countermeasure mission is hugely important to both military and civilian shipping from all nations in the Indo-Pacific region and keeping waterways clear of mine threats is fundamental to national security and the free flow of trade,” he said in the statement.

Capt. Yasuhiro Kawakami, commander of Japan’s mine warfare force, said he was “happy” that India has joined this year’s efforts.

“I believe that the Japan-U.S.-India collaboration in the minesweeping and diving exercise is important to bring regional safety and peace,” he said.

The U.S. sent the crew of the USS Chief, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 1 and staff from Mine Countermeasures Squadron 7 to participate.

Japan sent its mine warfare force; Commander, Mine Division 2, minesweeper tender JS Uraga; minesweeper ocean ship JS Awaaji and JS Hiraide; 15 minesweeper coastal ships; Helicopter Mine Warfare Squadron 111; four P-3C patrol aircraft; and a P-1 patrol aircraft.

Stars and Stripes correspondent Aya Ichihashi contributed to this report.

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General reprimanded for his misuse of aide

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A brigadier general found to have treated his aide-de-camp like a servant while directing airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq has been disciplined, officials at Marine Forces Pacific said Tuesday.

Military.com reported that Marine Brig. Gen. Rick A. Uribe had been reprimanded, although the Marines would not confirm the reprimand or its extent. A Marine spokesman said the command had taken “appropriate” action.

“The chain of command has addressed the allegations through appropriate administrative actions,” spokesman Chuck Little said by email. “We take all allegations of misconduct seriously.”

Uribe was found by the Pentagon’s inspector general to have used his aide-de-camp, an unidentified junior officer, for personal tasks such as picking up his laundry while deployed in Iraq from 2016 to 2017.

He was also found to have borrowed money and accepted gifts from other subordinates, which his current command said he has repaid.

“Brig. Gen. Uribe made a personal choice to voluntarily provide repayment in order to address concerns of any perception of impropriety raised by the report,” 1st Lt. David Morris said in an email.

Uribe is currently the deputy commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton.



Uribe



Courtesy of the University of Connecticut

Rich Christenson, right, a civil and environmental engineering professor, and Michael Harris, a doctoral student, attach a mounting ring to a hydraulic water pump at a University of Connecticut laboratory.

Seeking a stealthier fleet

Researchers work to eliminate shakes from Navy submarines

By SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

In the Navy’s ongoing quest to build a more stealthy submarine, service-funded research is close to yielding a new method for boatbuilders to test how much vibrational noise a sub will emit before it ever touches water.

The University of Connecticut research team’s method sounds simple at first — much of it centers around studying a pair of modified, shaking tables — but years of complex math and advanced physics have gone into creating precise measurements for how much an individual submarine component will shake.

After seven years and \$1.6 million in funding from the Office of Naval Research, the researchers say the method will help submarine builders incorporate simpler, less expensive details into the design phase of the boats.

The research comes as the U.S. submarine fleet shrinks due to the retirement of aging Los Angeles-class submarines from the Cold War era while demand for submarine missions from U.S. combatant commanders around the world remains high. The Navy is building two Virginia-class submarines annually, but the 2019 30-year shipbuilding plan calls for an additional 16 to be built beyond that rate, in line with the White House’s stated goal of a larger Navy.

Meanwhile, Navy officials say Russia is deploying its submarines more often and China has rapidly modernized its undersea program.

The Navy already uses sound-dampening technologies like polymer-rubber tiles and quieter propulsion to



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS Illinois, now a commissioned Virginia-class submarine, conducts sea trials off Groton, Conn., in August 2016.

prevent detection by other navies, but in the undersea world, even tiny noises can tip off an adversary.

“The more quiet they can be, the better,” said Rich Christenson, a civil and environmental engineering professor who advises the university’s graduate students working on the project.

Christenson and his students add parts to the two shaking tables, which seismic engineers normally use to test how a structure will hold up to an earthquake.

The tables are hooked to a computer that tells them to jiggle the parts at the same rate as if they were installed in a submarine operating underwater.

A big challenge is devising the complex numerical models for the computer to run the simulations, Christenson said, adding that the team must consider how the water interacts with the submarine’s structure.

Simulations are extremely exacting, he said, with movements as fine as 1/100 of an inch.

The precision required as they formulate algorithms for a series of components is part of what makes the lab work so time-consuming, Christenson said. “A lot of this stuff hasn’t been done before,” he said. “It’s always something different, which is fun.”

If the team determines a vibrating part is too loud, it looks at possible remedies.

A solution might be to add springs and dampers to equipment or thicken the padding between a component and the floor, Christenson said.

These are inexpensive fixes that can be a bigger, more costly hassle to implement after the submarine is assembled, he said.

Making these simple adjustments in design also could allow a builder to use off-the-shelf components instead of customized ones.

Electric Boat, a subsidiary of General Dynamics and one of the Navy’s two primary submarine builders, has expressed interest in the testing, Christenson said.

Christenson first got the idea for the vibrational testing by talking to graduate students who were Electric Boat engineers, he said.

Electric Boat and Naval Research officials declined to comment, saying they couldn’t discuss new submarine innovations in the works.

The immediate goal is to create a basic test that the university can publish in a journal and builders can adapt for their own testing, he said.

“Hopefully, without too much effort, they can convert it to something very useful to them,” Christenson said.

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EUROPE

World War III: Trump ambivalent on defending allies

FROM FRONT PAGE

"They are very aggressive people. They may get aggressive and, congratulations, you are in World War III."

Despite its diminutive size — slightly smaller than Connecticut and with just 630,000 people — Montenegro has a long martial tradition, having fought off the Ottoman Empire during its 400-year rule of the Balkans and having participated in both world wars on the winning side.

Trump, during a NATO meeting in 2017, drew attention when he elbowed Montenegro's prime minister, Dusko Markovic, out of the way during a ceremonial walk at the alliance's headquarters. Markovic appeared taken aback at first but then patted Trump on the back.

Opponents of extending NATO membership to small nations in Eastern Europe contend that adding more security consumers, rather than security providers, adds to tensions with Russia.

Mark Hertling, the retired former commander of U.S. Army Europe and a frequent critic of the current administration, said Trump's latest comments are eroding trust inside NATO.

"Stunning," Hertling said in a Twitter posting. "The 'provisions' are what makes it a mutual security and defense alliance. Alliance trust is gained in drops and lost in buckets."

Trump has long expressed ambivalence over defending allies. Early in his tenure, he suggested U.S. security guarantees depended on whether allies were spending enough money on their militaries.

For NATO, Article 5 serves as the linchpin to the security pact. U.S. commanders and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis have repeatedly emphasized that the American commitment to it is "ironclad."

But mixed messages from Trump create doubt, said Jorge Benitez, a NATO expert with the Atlantic Council.

At NATO's summit last week, Trump's confrontational approach with allies "weakened the alliance and damaged US national security," Benitez said.

"The only winner is (Russia President Vladimir) Putin. Putin may now question if NATO's Article 5 is still credible and he may be tempted to probe NATO and test the commitment of its members," Benitez told Stars and Stripes.

Allies in the Baltics are among the members most concerned about potential Russian aggression. On Tuesday, Estonian officials accused Russia of intruding on its airspace when Putin's jet crossed into Estonia en route to his meeting in Helsinki with Trump.

Estonian authorities called the brief incursion an illegal border crossing.

Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics responded to Trump's comments on Twitter on Wednesday, saying his country joined NATO "not because we are aggressive but because we feared aggression" and that his country has "no intent to start World War III."

In the case of Montenegro, a leading candidate for membership in the European Union and an up-and-coming tourist destination among Europeans, Moscow is already suspected of meddling.

In 2016, Russian military intelligence was accused of having a hand in a failed coup attempt inside Montenegro by Serb ultranationalists opposed to NATO membership.

Moscow has long opposed NATO expansion eastward, which it sees as a security threat.

Inside NATO, there also has been some disagreement among members over the alliance's open-door policy to aspiring partners who meet NATO standards, with some members saying it is needlessly provocative toward Russia.

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Above: Airmen train at mass-producing conventional munitions during an exercise hosted by the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England, on Tuesday. Left: Airmen carefully load a 5,000-pound conventional bunker buster onto a trailer during a combat ammunition production exercise.

WILLIAM HOWARD/
Stars and Stripes

Build: 'Great opportunity' for airmen to train

FROM FRONT PAGE

"All of the bases in USAFE can learn from this," said Master Sgt. Philip Severance, munitions accountable systems officer for the 48th Munitions Squadron. "Now we know what our limitations are, how to posture the force and how many people we need to have."

Live munitions of various sizes were built and later taken apart through an assembly-line setup. Airmen are expected to have worked on 400-600 bombs by the end of the exercise Thursday.

It was a rare experience for some of the visiting airmen, who don't craft munitions for the various F-15 weapons loads at their given bases.

"When we bring these units in, it's important for the training," Severance said. "Whether we fight at home or go downrange we're using some weapons that we don't usually get to play with, so it's a great opportunity."

Airmen installed guidance kits into 13-meter-long bombs and

carefully loaded 5,000-pound bunker busters with forklifts onto trailers.

Each completed order went through a detailed safety inspection before the bombs were delivered to ammunition loaders on the flight line.

"They usually call line-delivery drivers the last line of defense because we are," said Senior Airman Jacob Head, of the 48th MUNS. "We get out there and if something is wrong we were the

last eyes to see it."

All bombs built during the exercise will be broken down into their original components and used for new training cycles of mass production.

Once the exercise is finished, the bomb parts will be inventoried and stored in preparation for an audit by USAFE inspectors scheduled for next week.

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Soldiers with the armed forces of Montenegro conduct a training exercise at Camp Marmal, Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, in May.

JORDAN BELSER/Courtesy of NATO

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NATION

Trump asserts Russia is not targeting US

Claim contradicts intelligence chief's warnings

By ZEKE MILLER, LISA MASCARO
AND KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday denied Russia is still targeting the United States, a claim sharply at odds with recent warnings from his top intelligence chief about ongoing threats to election security.

Trump was asked at the end of a Cabinet meeting if Russia was still targeting the U.S. and answered “no” without elaborating. His response followed words of alarm last week from National Intelligence Director Dan Coats, who said warning lights about overall cyberthreats to the U.S. were “blinking red” — much as “blinking red” signals before the 9/11 terror attacks.

In the aftermath of his Helsinki meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump asserted that no other American president has been as “tough” on Russia as he has been. He cited U.S. sanctions on Russia and the expulsion of alleged Russian spies from the U.S., telling reporters that Putin “understands it, and he’s not happy about it.”

Coats said last week that Russia has been the most aggressive cyberthreat but other efforts are coming from China, Iran and North Korea as well as criminal networks and individual hackers.

Trump’s comments came a day after he walked back his public questioning of

U.S. intelligence findings of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Those previous comments, delivered alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit press conference Monday, had prompted blistering, bipartisan criticism at home.

Trump took to Twitter early Wednesday to defend the meeting, promising “big results” from better relations with Russia and hitting back at “haters.”

“So many people at the high ends of intelligence loved my press conference performance in Helsinki,” Trump tweeted.

He added, “We got along well which truly bothered many haters who wanted to see a boxing match.”

In a follow-up tweet, Trump wrote that Russia has agreed to help in delicate negotiations with North Korea. But he gave no details on how and when that might happen.

“Big benefits and exciting future for North Korea at end of process!” he wrote.

Amid bipartisan condemnation of his embrace of a longtime U.S. enemy, Trump sought to end the recrimination by delivering a rare admission of error Tuesday. He backed away from his public undermining of American intelligence agencies, saying he mispoke when he said he saw no reason to believe Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

“The sentence should have been, ‘I don’t see any reason why I wouldn’t, or why it wouldn’t be Russia’” instead of “why it



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIS/AP

President Donald Trump speaks to members of his Cabinet at the White House on Wednesday.

would,” Trump said Tuesday of the comments he had made in Helsinki.

That didn’t explain why Trump, who had tweeted a half-dozen times and sat for two television interviews since the Putin news conference, waited so long to correct his remarks. And the scripted cleanup pertained only to the least defensible of his comments.

He didn’t reverse other statements in which he gave clear credence to Putin’s “extremely strong and powerful” denial of Russian involvement, raised doubts about his own intelligence agencies’ conclusions and advanced discredited conspiracy theories about election meddling.

Trump also accused past American leaders, rather than Russia’s destabilizing actions in the U.S. and around the world, for the souring of relations between two countries. And he did not address his other problematic statements during a weeklong

Europe tour, in which he sent the NATO alliance into emergency session and assailed British Prime Minister Theresa May as she was hosting him for an official visit.

“I accept our intelligence community’s conclusion that Russia’s meddling in the 2016 election took place,” Trump conceded Tuesday. But even then he made a point of adding, “It could be other people also. A lot of people out there. There was no collusion at all.”

On Capitol Hill, top Republican leaders said they were open to slapping fresh sanctions on Russia, but they showed no sign of acting anytime soon.

“Let’s be very clear, just so everybody knows: Russia did meddle with our elections,” said House Speaker Paul Ryan, another steady Trump political ally. “What we intend to do is make sure they don’t get away with it again and also to help our allies.”

Concerns raised that law targets VA’s low-level workers

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Some lawmakers expressed concern Tuesday that the Department of Veterans Affairs is using a new law to target low-level workers and retaliate against whistleblowers.

The VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act was approved a year ago by Congress and heralded by President Donald Trump as a fix-all to root out a culture of corruption at the VA. It removed barriers to firing VA employees and created the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection to oversee disciplinary actions and investi-

gate misconduct and instances of whistleblower retaliation.

Some lawmakers, advocates and union representatives argued Tuesday a disproportionate number of low-level workers were terminated, demoted or suspended under the new law. Since the beginning of 2018, more than 1,000 VA workers have been fired — 15 of whom were supervisors. Hundreds worked in custodial services, food service and housekeeping.

“I want to make it clear that while this law made it easier to discipline poor employees, it did not give VA the license to use this authority to target employees, no matter their position or grade, or to retaliate against whistleblow-

ers,” Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, said Tuesday during a hearing.

Jacqueline Garrick, who founded the nonprofit Whistleblowers of America, wrote in testimony that the new VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection wasn’t responsive to whistleblowers’ concerns. She argued whistleblowers wouldn’t trust an office inside VA headquarters to handle their complaints and she asked Congress to shift resources to independent agencies, such as the Office of Special Counsel.

J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, argued the new law had backfired. AFGES is a

union representing approximately 250,000 VA workers.

In scathing testimony, Cox claimed the new law has led to low morale and fear among the VA workforce.

“Due process and having those checks and balances is the way we avoid having a politicized federal workforce, and now we have employees who can be fired at will,” he said. “I think it creates fear, and when you have fear in an organization, you never have the best performance.”

VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke, who led the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection much of the time it’s been in existence, defended the VA’s use of the new law. He argued

there hasn’t been a significant increase in firings since the law was introduced.

“It’s in the data,” O’Rourke said. “When we look back to 2014 and forward, you don’t see a significant difference from year to year in unrealistic firings or removals of any category of employee.”

He said the office tracks the complaints it receives, a practice that can identify “hotbeds of misconduct” where they can focus their resources.

“The desired end state is to be proactive instead of reactive,” O’Rourke said.

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Proposal calls for impeaching presidents who declare war without OK

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A president who sends the U.S. military to war without congressional approval, which has become commonplace in recent decades, should face impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors, two House lawmakers said Wednesday.

The radical proposal took the

form of a resolution by Reps. Walter Jones, R-N.C., and Gabe Gabbard, D-Hawaii, both members of the House Armed Services Committee, and marks the latest effort on Capitol Hill to reign in the president’s war powers.

In recent months, some House and Senate members have proposed a variety of ways to revamp the president’s outdated war powers, but none has gained much

traction. “Congress does not debate sending your son or daughter to die for this country then we don’t need a Congress anyway,” Jones said Wednesday while flanked by Gabbard, military veterans and members of peace organizations at Capitol Hill. “Nothing is more sacred than to send a man or woman to die for this country.”

Jones and Gabbard were hop-

ing to highlight their H.Res. 922, which Congress introduced last month and has yet to be debated on the House floor. Unlike a legislative bill, a resolution is a nonbinding measure and expresses a chamber’s commitment on a particular issue.

Gabbard, who served in Iraq and is now a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard, said Congress has not officially de-

clared war since World War II.

“Ever since, Congress has failed to uphold this congressional duty and has ceded this power to president, presidents of both parties,” Gabbard said. “So our country remains in a state of perpetual war at a great cost to the American people.”

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NATION

Congresswoman backed by Trump wins Ala. runoff

By KIM CHANDLER
AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

MILLBROOK, Ala.—U.S. Rep. Martha Roby won Alabama's Republican runoff, fighting through lingering fallout from her years-old criticism of then-candidate Donald Trump in a midterm contest that hinged on loyalty to the GOP president.

The four-term incumbent will now represent the GOP on the November ballot having defeated Bobby Bright, a former Democrat who tried to cast himself as the more authentic Trump ally in the low-turnout Republican contest.

The Trump White House was on Roby's side.

"It's been a true privilege to have the support of the White House through this campaign," Roby told cheering supporters Tuesday night, her voice cracking with emotion at times. "I am so humbled that the people of Alabama and Congress and this district have again placed their trust and their confidence in me."

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence endorsed the four-term incumbent in recent weeks. The vice president went farther than the weekend and recorded rebroadcasts distributed on her behalf saying she's a reliable vote for the Trump agenda.

Some intervention was required after Roby angered Alabama Republicans in the closing days of the 2016 presidential election when she said Trump's lewd comments about women — captured on an "Access Hollywood" tape — made him unacceptable as a candidate for president.

She spent much of the last two years trying to convince her constituents in Alabama's 2nd Congressional District that she was sufficiently loyal to Trump.

On Wednesday, Trump credited himself for her win when tweeting his congratulations.

"My endorsement came appropriately late, but when it came the 'flood gates' opened and you had the kind of landslide victory that you deserve. Enjoy!" he wrote.

Voters indicated they were willing to move past Roby's criticism of Trump.

Don Bascom, a retired mechanical engineer who lives in Prattville, said he generally supports the president, but he also shared Roby's concerns about him in 2016. He voted for the congresswoman on Tuesday.

"I think she has done a good job. She's an incumbent so to some degree she's proven herself," he said. "One of the criticisms I've heard of her is that she simply couldn't vote for Trump when he ran, and to be honest, I



BUTCH DILL/AP

Rep. Martha Roby, right, hugs her mother-in-law, who is on Tuesday in Montgomery, Ala., after Roby won the Republican runoff election.

couldn't either because of the way he treats people."

Deborah Gilliam, a registered nurse from Millbrook, said she too was bothered by Roby's comments about Trump, but she ultimately voted for her. She said she felt uneasy with Bright's party switch.

"It was a toss-up," Gilliam said. "I'll give her one more chance."

Roby faced the runoff test because she earned only 39 percent of the vote in the first primary contest in June. Bright was the second-place finisher.

Despite Roby's past criticism of Trump, the White House eventually emerged as her most powerful backer.

Trump called Roby a "reliable vote for our Make America Great Again Agenda" on Twitter and bashed Bright as "a recent Nancy Pelosi voting Democrat."

The president was referring to Bright's support of Pelosi's bid to become House speaker when he was a Democrat in Congress.

Roby made clear she would return the favor should she win re-election in November, as she's expected in heavily Republican state. She'll face Democrat Tabitha Isner, a political newcomer.

Arizona candidate who shot mother in '66 speaks on guns

By MELISSA DANIELS
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A Republican Arizona state Senate candidate has shocked gun control advocates by sharing details about shooting and killing his mother in apparent self-defense more than 50 years ago.

Bobby Wilson, who is running to represent a southern Arizona district, told The Associated Press that he's not trying to hide anything. He says his mother was "insane" and shot at him with a rifle when he was in bed in their Oklahoma farmhouse one night in 1963. He then shot and killed her — Wilson's sister also died that night, and the house caught on fire.

"I'm lucky to be alive, twice over," Wilson said.

Wilson wrote about those events in his 2010 book "Bobby's Trials" and also mentions them on his website biography. But they caught public interest when he appeared at a Moms Demand Action forum in Tucson earlier this month. Wilson told the crowd he was "living PMA" — the only one who can stop someone trying to harm somebody is a "good guy with a gun."

He didn't say at that event that the person he shot was his mother.

Rep. Daniel Hernandez, a Democrat who represents the same district Wilson is running in, was at the forum. He said Gabby Giffords, the former congresswoman

who was shot in Tucson in 2011, and other gun violence survivors were in the audience. Many were shocked, he said.

Hernandez, who was at the scene when Giffords was shot — said Wilson also brought up the Giffords shooting, saying that she should've had security.

"I've never ever heard someone be so aggressive in that view, and also to drag Gabby into it, I thought, was so distasteful and so disgusting," he said.

Wilson is running for a seat currently held by Democrat Sen. Andrea Laessandro. He's in a primary running against Republican Shelley Kasis, who says there are other issues that matter to voters.

"We need someone who can secure a position and a voice for the people of southern Arizona and we don't need controversy like this swirling around them," Kasis said.

The Arizona Republic reported Monday that Wilson was imprisoned after the deaths were discovered. After two trials, the court eventually dismissed his case in the early 1970s.

Wilson, who never confessed to anything at the time because he had amnesia and didn't remember what happened for many years.

Wilson says he's a licensed gun owner. But he says he hasn't had to use it in self-defense.

"That's the only time I've ever been in that situation, and I hope it's the last time," he said.

Many state lawmakers accused of sexual misconduct run again

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Allegations of sexual misconduct against Kentucky lawmakers have become so common that the statehouse has seemed more like a frat house. Seven have faced accusations, including four who settled secretly with a female legislative aide.

Voters' response? Mostly, keep them in office.

Of the five lawmakers up for re-election this year, three easily made it through their party primaries and will be favored to retain their seats in November. The other two chose not to run.

It's not just Kentucky. An Associated Press review finds that 25 state lawmakers who have been accused of sexual misconduct are running for re-election or another office this year. Of those, 15 have already advanced to the Nov. 6 general election, seven did face a challenger in their primary.

Cassandra Cooper, who filed a sexual harassment claim against a former Kentucky lawmaker in 2013, wonders why voters would re-elect public officials accused of sexual misconduct, or simply choose to ignore the allegations.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

California Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, right, is hugged by fellow Democratic Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes on May 25, her first day back at the Assembly in Sacramento since an investigation into sexual misconduct charges. Garcia won her June primary.

"That shocks me," she said. "Where is the empathy?"

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal — and the growth of the #MeToo movement — any assumption that accused office holders would be political pariahs is not borne out on the state level.

(Though by comparison, virtually every member of Congress accused of sexual harassment has resigned or opted against running for re-election.)

Kelly Dittmar, an assistant professor of political science at Rutgers University, said the relative

political success of accused state lawmakers suggests that voters are unsure how to respond. Does a private failing disqualify someone from serving in public office?

"We don't have an answer for that," she said.

That is true even in states where voters have a history of supporting female politicians and traditionally liberal issues.

In California, of the six state lawmakers who faced misconduct allegations and ran for re-election or another office, four advanced to the general election. That includes two women.

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, an early advocate for legislative changes in support of the #MeToo movement, was the top vote-getter in a crowded June primary for her Los Angeles-area district. She took a three-month leave of absence earlier this year after a former legislative staffer accused her of sexual harassment in 2016. Investigators initially cleared Garcia of the charge, but her accuser appealed the findings and the investigation has since been reopened.

In November, Garcia will face Republican Mike Simpenderfer, a mortgage banker who sits on the board of a national nonprofit dedi-

cated to helping survivors of sexual assault. He was inspired years ago to become an advocate after family members told him of their experiences with sexual assault.

Simpenderfer, 56, said some politicians facing harassment allegations will do what he considers the right thing and resign, but others try to hang onto power. He called the allegations against Garcia embarrassing.

Garcia's spokesman said she was not granting interviews because of the ongoing investigation. She has denied wrongdoing.

In Kentucky, challengers are reluctant to make sexual harassment a cornerstone of their campaigns. Democrat Debra Ferguson Payne, a retired teacher, is challenging state Rep. Jim Stewart in November. Stewart was mentioned in a recently released memo that indicated a female state employee had filed a complaint against him for "unwanted verbal advances."

Payne said she has no plans to discuss the allegations in her campaign, fearing it would backfire in a district where voters have re-elected Stewart for two decades.

NATION

Immunity sought for 5 Manafort witnesses

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The special counsel in the Russia investigation is seeking immunity for five potential witnesses in the upcoming trial of President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort.

The five individuals have indicated that they won't testify or provide other information "on the basis of their privilege against self-incrimination," special counsel Robert Mueller's office told a federal judge in Virginia in a court filing Tuesday.

As a result, prosecutors are

asking a judge to compel their testimony, under a condition of immunity, at Manafort's upcoming bank and tax fraud trial.

They are requesting what is known as "use immunity," which would mean prosecutors could not use the witnesses' testimony against them unless they were to make false statements.

Prosecutors did not name the potential witnesses, who have not been charged, because they have not been publicly identified as being involved in the case.

Motions providing more information about them were filed under seal, and prosecutors asked

a judge to leave the information that way un- less and until the witnesses are called to testify.

The Manafort trial, the first arising from Mueller's investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, is expected to start next week.

Also Tuesday, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III denied



Manafort

Manafort's request to move the trial from Alexandria, in the Washington region, to the more sparsely populated southwestern Virginia city of Roanoke.

Manafort's lawyers said extensive pretrial news media coverage in the Washington region had interfered with Manafort's right to a fair trial.

They also said the population in the northern Virginia area where the Alexandria jury pool would be drawn from voted heavily in favor of Democrat Hillary Clinton over Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Ellis rejected that argument Tuesday, saying media attention

in the case would be the same in Alexandria "as it would be in Roanoke or Kansas City or Dallas."

He said there was no evidence that potential jurors in the region were politically biased, and that in any event, jurors' political leanings by themselves aren't evidence that they can't fairly consider a case.

"It would be inappropriate for courts to move trials around the country in cases of this sort until a district could be found where a defendant's political views were shared by at least as many persons in the district as those with contrary views," Ellis wrote.

EPA proposal to limit science studies draws Democratic opposition

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic lawmakers joined scores of scientists, health providers, environmental officials and activists Tuesday in denouncing an industry-backed proposal that could limit dramatically the scientific studies the Environmental Protection Agency considers in shaping protections for human health.

If adopted by the Trump administration, the rule would allow an EPA administrator to reject study results in making decisions about chemicals, pollutants and other health risks if underlying research data is not made public because of patient privacy concerns or other issues.

Opponents said the move would throw out the kind of public health studies that underlie enforcement of the Clean Air Act and other landmark environmental controls, since the studies drew on confidential health data from thousands of individuals.

Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko, of New York, said the proposed rule was "a thinly veiled campaign to limit research ... that supports critical regulatory action."

The rule was proposed by then-Administrator Scott Pruitt before his resignation earlier this month amid mounting ethics scandals.

At the public hearing Tuesday, opponents outnumbered supporters.

"It enables the public to more meaningfully comment on the science" behind environmental regulation, said Joseph Stanko, a representative of industry trade groups and companies affected by what he said were increasingly stringent air-pollution regulations.

Backers have expressed their own worries about how the broadly written rule would apply to confidential trade secrets. Ted Steiner, of the American Petroleum Institute, said his group sup-

ports the initiative to "enhance transparency while ensuring privacy."

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., said the EPA proposal was the latest version of years of "transparency" legislation for EPA that Congress had rejected. She called it "an administrative attempt to circumvent the legislative process."

New York state officials and representatives of public and private universities were among others speaking against the proposal.

Opponents also included community health practitioners who had taken time off their jobs to speak at the hearing.

Researcher Pam Miller, who works with Alaska Native communities affected by toxins, said she traveled from Anchorage to speak at the meeting. Hospital nurse Erica Bardwell came from nearby Arlington, Va.

Health workers "care about patients and won't surrender their confidentiality. Which means studies won't get done," Bardwell said after her testimony.

"Which is the point" of the proposal, Bardwell added.

Critics said the policy shift is designed to restrict the agency from citing peer-reviewed public health studies that use patient medical records that must be kept confidential under patient privacy laws.

Such studies include the Harvard School of Public Health's landmark Six Cities study of 1993, which established links between death rates and dirty air in major U.S. cities. That study was used by EPA to justify tighter air-quality rules opposed by industrial polluters.

While Pruitt introduced the proposal, the EPA is continuing the steps toward its formal adoption under the new acting administrator, former Pruitt EPA deputy Andrew Wheeler.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas, center, is joined by, from left, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo.; Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo.; and Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., while speaking to reporters during a news conference about Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday.

Senate GOP, Democrats fight over Kavanaugh confirmation documents

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate battle was brewing Tuesday over Democrats' requests for documents from Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's career, with his time in President George W. Bush's White House emerging as a potential focal point of that fight.

No. 2 Senate Republican leader John Cornyn told reporters about "rumblings" that Democrats want "every scrap of paper" from Kavanaugh's career.

"We're not going to sit idly by and allow our Democratic colleagues to draw this out by making unreasonable document demands which would delay this hearing until well past the election," the Texan told reporters.

GOP leaders have talked about hoping to confirm Kavanaugh by the Oct. 1 start of the next Supreme Court term.

Most Democrats are expected to oppose the nomination of the 53-year-old conservative.

Cornyn said his "suggestion" was that Democrats should concentrate on Kavanaugh's dozen years as judge on the powerful U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a post he assumed in 2006. He said Democrats have issued "no requests" for re-

cords from his three-year stint as staff secretary in Bush's White House, when Cornyn said Kavanaugh was "basically managing the paper flow for the administration."

But Democrats seem to have a particular interest in that period of Kavanaugh's life.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Democrats were not making unreasonable requests for documents.

"We should have access to all of his writings," he said in a brief interview. He said papers from Kavanaugh's time as Bush's staff secretary were "an essential element to this."

A senior Democratic Senate aide said Democrats want as many relevant documents as possible, especially from his time as Bush's staff secretary. The aide says Democratic senators haven't agreed to meet with Kavanaugh because they want to understand what documents the White House and Republicans will produce and how they'll do it.

The aide spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

As White House staff secretary, Kavanaugh saw virtually all of the tens of thousands of documents that reached Bush's desk. Processing those documents could take a long time.

NATION



COURTESY OF CHELSEA MOORE/AP

The wrecked Jeep belonging to Angela Hernandez, 23, of Portland, Ore., is shown on Friday.

Woman tells of finding cliff plunge survivor

By ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A self-described beachcomber says it was her luckiest find yet: a woman who survived a 250-foot car plunge off a cliff and a week stranded on a remote California beach.

"We freakin' love that beach and we're so glad she's alive," Chelsea Moore said Monday as she described the afternoon last Friday when she and her husband found Angela Hernandez, 23, of Portland.

Hernandez had been driving to her sister's home in Lancaster, near Los Angeles, on July 6 when a small animal crossed in front of her, causing her to swerve and lose control of her car, she wrote from her hospital bed Sunday in a Facebook account.

"The only thing I really remember after that was waking up," Hernandez wrote. "I was still in my car and I could feel water rising over my knees. My head hurt and when I touched it, I found blood on my hands."

Hernandez said she broke a window of her car, jumped into the ocean and swam ashore. She fell asleep on the beach and realized what had happened after she woke up.

Moore, 34, and her husband Chad, 31, of Morro Bay were camping above an ocean-side cliff in the rugged Big Sur area of Monterey County when they decided to climb down a cliff to a remote beach to find some good surfing and fishing spots — and a little adventure.

Instead, they came on a car bumper and a short time later spotted a rusty and wrecked Jeep. Nobody was in it.

The couple took the license plate to show authorities.

After another quarter-mile, the Moores heard a cry for help, and then another.

"Then they saw Hernandez. "She was really happy and she wasn't sure we were real," Moore said. "She told us we were the first people she had seen in days but she didn't know how many days exactly. We told her we were going to help her and get her off that beach."

Hernandez had two black eyes and burst blood vessels in her eyes.



COURTESY OF CHAD MOORE/AP

Hernandez, left, poses with Chelsea Moore, who with her husband found Hernandez after she survived a plunge off a cliff on a remote beach.

"Her clothes were in tatters. Her socks were in scraps" and she was shoeless, Moore said. "She was very wet. At high tide there's no beach. She said sometimes she'd been sleeping and she'd wake up at night with waves smacking her."

"I found a high spot I was able to climb up to and found myself there almost every day," Hernandez wrote.

By the third day, she made her way back to her wrecked car, found a 10-inch radiator hose and eventually used it and her hands to collect water.

Hernandez said she developed a daily ritual of walking the beach in search of new high ground, screaming for help at the top of her lungs and collecting fresh water.

Everything changed on Friday, when Hernandez woke up and saw a woman walking across the shore.

"I thought it was a dream," Hernandez wrote.

While her husband stayed with Hernandez, Moore raced and sloshed her way through water and poison oak, scrambled up a rugged cliff trail to the top to get help from the camp's host and brought back down a pack of food and clothing.

Hours later, rescuers were able to take Hernandez back up the cliff and helicopter her to a hospital.

"We're just really lucky beachcombers," Chelsea said. "She's the hero."

Siberian gun lover accused of spying took curious path

By ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

By her early 20s, Maria Butina appeared to have a budding political career and a mini furniture empire in her remote Siberian hometown. Then she abandoned both to pursue her passion for gun rights — and, prosecutors say, to spy on the United States.

Butina, 29, faced a hearing Wednesday in Washington on accusations she worked as a foreign agent, representing a new generation of Russian operatives seeking a long-term U.S. foothold.

"It's psychosis. A witch hunt," her father, Valery Butin, was quoted as saying Wednesday by the Altpress website in her hometown of Barnaul.

U.S. prosecutors suggest Butina used her gun-lobbying efforts to infiltrate the NRA and the Republican Party, both during the 2016 presidential campaign and after Donald Trump's election.

U.S. federal prosecutors detailed extensive private Twitter conversations and other discussions between Butina and a senior Russian official about her activities in the United States.

The Russian official is believed to be Alexander Torshin, deputy head of the Russian Central Bank and a target of U.S. sanctions since April. He and the Central Bank

didn't respond to requests for comment about Butina's arrest.

The Russian Embassy in Washington said Butina hasn't been able to meet with consular representatives since her Sunday arrest.

From her provincial beginnings, Russian media accounts say, Butina displayed remarkable ambition, political savvy and an overt love of weapons.

That carried her out of the Siberian steppe to Moscow, where she befriended a well-placed senator and founded a gun rights group.

Her ambitions didn't stop at Russia's borders. She traveled to gun shows and right-wing events from the Freedomfest in Las Vegas to a National Rifle Association meeting in Indianapolis, according to her own social media posts.

"There is nothing new in this case," the Russian ambassador to the U.S., Anatoly Antonov, said Wednesday, according to Russian news agencies. "The U.S. intelligence services are hunting for Russia's citizens not only in the U.S. but in other countries, too."



Butina

Before her move to the U.S., Butina studied politics at Altai State University and the School of Real Politics in Barnaul, and opened a furniture store that she grew into a network, according to Altpress and other local news sites.

Butina was elected to the local Public Chamber, an advisory body that acts as a go-between with local officials and the public.

She ran for a spot on the nationwide Public Chamber; she didn't get it but she did make contacts in Moscow and moved to the capital, where she founded gun rights group Right to Bear Arms.

Among those she met in Moscow was political expert Andrei Kolyadin, who used her as an interpreter when he attended a National Prayer Breakfast in the U.S. and said he spoke with her just before her arrest about the World Cup, held in Russia.

Butina is charged with conspiracy to act as an unregistered agent of the Russian government, suspected of gathering intelligence on American officials and political organizations and working to establish back-channel lines of communications for the Kremlin.

Her lawyer, Robert Driscoll, called the allegations "overblown" and said prosecutors had criminalized mundane networking opportunities.

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NATION

MGM sues Las Vegas shooting victims

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — MGM Resorts International has sued hundreds of victims of the deadly October mass shooting in a bid to avoid liability for the gunfire that rained down from its Mandalay Bay casino-resort in Las Vegas.

The company argues in lawsuits filed in Nevada, California, New York and other states this week and last that it has “no liability of any kind” to survivors or families of slain victims under

a federal law enacted after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The lawsuits target victims who have sued the company and voluntarily dismissed their claims or have threatened to sue after a gunman shattered the windows of his Mandalay Bay suite and fired on a crowd gathered below for a country music festival.

High-stakes gambler Stephen Paddock killed 58 people and injured hundreds more last year before killing himself. Victims with active lawsuits against MGM don’t face the company’s

legal claim.

MGM says the 2002 law limits its liabilities when a company or group uses services certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and mass attacks occur.

The company says it is not liable because its security vendor for the concert, Contemporary Services Corp., was federally certified at the time of the Oct. 1 shooting.

MGM claims the victims — through actual and threatened lawsuits — have implicated CSC’s

services because they involve concert security, including training, emergency response and evacuation.

“If defendants were injured by Paddock’s assault, as they allege, they were inevitably injured both because Paddock fired from his window and because they remained in the line of fire at the concert. Such claims inevitably implicate security at the concert — and may result in loss to CSC,” according to the MGM lawsuits.

CSC’s general counsel, James Service, told The Associated

Press on Tuesday that it doesn’t comment on litigation involving the company or a third party.

MGM wants a court to declare that the U.S. law “precludes any finding of liability” against the company “for any claim for injuries arising out of or related to Paddock’s mass attack.”

Brian Claypool, an attorney who was at the music festival during the shooting, called the lawsuits a “hypocritical maneuver” that will turn into a “public relations nightmare for MGM.”

Ex-Disney performer: Pregnancy cost her job

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Disney ballerina who performed in Animal Kingdom’s Festival of the Lion King show is accusing the theme park operator of firing her after she became pregnant with twins, according to a recent lawsuit.

Krista Crowder sued, alleging gender discrimination this month in Orange Circuit Court. She is seeking more than \$15,000 in damages. Her lawsuit names Walt Disney Parks and Resorts as well as Disney Worldwide Services.

“We have a longstanding policy against workplace discrimination, and we will respond to the allegations as appropriate in court,” a Disney spokeswoman said in a statement in response to the allegations.

Crowder, 33, played the role of a bluebird in an aerial part of the show.

She stopped working in November 2015 because of her pregnancy and gave birth to her twin daughters on June 1, 2016, via a Caesarean section.

Eight weeks later, her doctor cleared her to work out, although Crowder couldn’t get back in the harness yet.

She was notified in a letter she was terminated June 20, 2016, according to her complaint with the Florida Commission on Human Relations and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Crowder asked Disney if her firing was a mistake and was told she could return to her position.

She was instructed to audition even though the lawsuit alleged, “The audition requirement was against Disney Parks protocol which should have only required a costume fit and a rehearsal.”

By her October audition, she had lost 60 pounds that she gained during pregnancy.

But Crowder said she was later told she was no longer needed at the theme park.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

A sign at the Jaguar Jungle exhibit at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans on Monday addresses the weekend attack by the jaguar on nine other animals at the zoo.

Zoo official says escaped jaguar bit through a steel cable barrier

By KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A jaguar that killed nine other animals during a weekend escape from its habitat at the Audubon Zoo is believed to have bitten through a steel cable barrier that forms the roof of its habitat, the zoo’s managing director said Tuesday.

Kyle Burks told reporters at a zoo news conference Tuesday that the jaguar apparently slipped through the resulting small gap in the cables. He estimated the hole to be about 8 inches by 10 inches.

The interlocking steel cables that form what looks like a hard net over the habitat meet Association of Zoos and Aquariums guidelines but zoo officials are now looking for stronger materials, Burks said.

“We haven’t determined the final material we’re going to use yet,” he said.

Meanwhile, the jaguar exhibit will remain closed.

No people were hurt during the escape. The animal was tranquilized and was safely removed less than an hour after an employee discovered it was out early Saturday, before the zoo’s opening time.

Burks said officials don’t know how long it roamed free before the escape was discovered.

Had the escape occurred when the zoo was opened, Burks said, staffers would have implemented plans to usher visitors into secure buildings.

He also said there is an outer perimeter fence, designed to keep animals from getting off the zoo

grounds, that meets the accrediting organization’s standards. Pressed by reporters, he said it’s “conceivable” that the cat might have been able to eventually breach an outer perimeter and escape the zoo.

“I can’t necessarily say that there’s no way he could have done that,” Burks said.

But he stressed that the staff is trained to prevent such an occurrence.

“Any time any of our dangerous animals are outside of their exhibit, we’re going to take action. It doesn’t matter where they are.”

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have inspected the zoo since the escape, Burks said, And the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the zoo’s accrediting organization, has been notified.

Three foxes, five apaches and an emu died as a result of attacks by the 3-year-old jaguar named Valerio.

Burks said the escape was discovered at 7:20 a.m. Saturday when a staffer delivering food in the swamp exhibit heard what Burks said were sounds of animals in distress. The staffer spotted the jaguar in the fox exhibit.

He and another staffer secured themselves in a safe building and radioed zoo staff. Tranquilizer darts were used to bring the big cat down.

Valerio was examined and found to be in good health. The big cat will not be euthanized, zoo officials said, because it exhibited normal predatory behavior.

Smoke clogs Yosemite as blaze rages

Associated Press

MARIPOSA, Calif. — Hot and dry weather on Tuesday hindered efforts to slow the growth of a forest fire near Yosemite National Park that killed a California firefighter last weekend, leading some tourists to cut short their visits although all park trails remained open.

The blaze roaring through dry brush and timber between the town of Mariposa and Yosemite National Park has scorched more than 19 square miles in steep terrain on the park’s western edge, the U.S. Forest Service said.

More than 1,400 firefighters were battling the flames threatening more than 100 homes and businesses, the Forest Service said. It’s just 5 percent contained.

An inversion layer trapped smoke in the area, limiting air attacks and leading officials to issue a hazardous air alert, saying people with health conditions should stay indoors.

“Use common sense. If it looks smoky outside it’s probably not a good time to go for a run. And it’s probably not a good time for your children to play outdoors,” Mariposa County officials said.

Alyssa Sandoval, of Pollock Pines, Calif., planned to leave the park Tuesday. But she left a day early after spending a couple hours in a smoke-filled valley.

“The smoke was horrible, it was horrible. My mother got sick, my husband’s eyes were stinging, burning,” she said. “I’ve never seen the valley like that. It was smoked out. You didn’t even know you were in Yosemite.”

All amenities and trails remained open Tuesday, and park rangers tended the entrances and the visitor center were informing tourists of the poor air quality, park spokesman Scott Gediman said. Information was also posted on the park’s social media accounts.

“Our primary goal is get the information out to them so they can decide how best to go about their visit,” Gediman said.

NATION

Attack on Orleans

A century ago, German sub made town the only place in US to receive enemy gunfire during WWI

By VIRGINIA MAYO
AND RAF CASERT
Associated Press

ORLEANS, Mass. — Over 3,000 miles from the trenches and battlefields of the Western Front, where many hundreds of thousands had already died, residents of Orleans were enjoying a typical summer morning on July 21, 1918, waiting for the fog to lift off the shore.

Then suddenly, a German U-156 submarine broke the surface and brought World War I home. Orleans became the only part of the United States to be shelled by the enemy. For a brief moment, “over there” had become “over here.”

Just after 10.30 a.m., the heavy thump of something hitting land signaled the first attack on American soil in 100 years.

“I don’t know if it was the first shot or the sound of my feet hitting the floor,” the late Ruben Hopkins, then a 22-year-old guard at Orleans’ lifesaving station No. 40, recalled in a recording. “I was out of my bunk up there in seconds flat.”

To this day, it remains a mystery why such an advanced submarine would attack a target that had no real value. While instilling fear in the American public by attacking shipping was a tactic, going so close to shore seemed an undue risk. One theory is that the sub had hoped to cut the underwater communications cable that ran from Orleans to France.

A commemoration is planned for Saturday afternoon on Nauset Beach to mark the 100th anniversary of the event.

That day, the Perth Amboy tug, towing four barges, was taking the long route around the elbow of Cape Cod rather than passing through the newly opened Cape Cod Canal. German Capt. Richard Feldt’s U-156 was watching and started shooting.

Looking out from the station watchtower window, Hopkins recalled: “I could clearly make out the shape of the submarine. I saw a splash where it hit in the water next to the tug.”

The Perth Amboy took a direct hit to the pilothouse, and a member of the crew was wounded. The sub then directed its attention to the barges.

The local lifesavers, some of the best in the U.S., launched their boat directly into the line of fire. Their motto: “You have to go out, but you don’t have to come back.” Nothing, however, really prepared the lifesavers for such a close encounter with the enemy.

Residents flocked to the beach to see what the excitement was about before shells hitting land sent some scurrying back home. Dr. Danforth Taylor, visiting his daughter on the bluff above Nauset Beach, telephoned The Boston Globe immediately.

Miles away at the Chatham Naval Air Station, Ensign Eric Lingard piloted an HS-1L flying boat and flew north, since lifesavers had already reached the tug



COURTESY OF THE ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY/AP

Survivors of a German World War I submarine attack arrive in a lifeboat to the shore in Orleans, Mass., on July 21, 1918. Nearly 100 years ago, the shore of Orleans was shelled by a German submarine.

and barges. His first two bombing runs were unsuccessful.

Hopkins recalled: “I couldn’t see he dropped anything. It appeared to me he was trying to frighten the sub, and the sub just wasn’t frightened.”

Just behind Lingard, an R-9 Seaplane came in for a run at 500 feet. The bomb hit its mark but also did not detonate.

The German submarine, perhaps feeling that it had achieved its mission or thinking its luck was running out, dived back below the surface and left Cape Cod.

In less than an hour, the attack was over. The Perth Amboy was still afloat, although heavily damaged, and three of the four barges were on their way to the bottom of the ocean. While no one was killed in the attack, two crewmembers were sent off to a Boston hospital badly injured.

Feldt and his U-156 continued attacking ships running up through Canada and Newfoundland. However, just two months



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

A boardwalk leads to Nauset Beach in Orleans.

before the Nov. 11 Armistice, the sub failed to clear the North-ern Barrage minefield between Britain and Norway. It was never heard from again.

Lingard never got to see the Armistice, dying of pneumonia just a week before his 27th birthday — less than two weeks before the end of the war.

Prosecutor in girl’s 1988 killing hails ancestry databases

Associated Press

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — An Indiana prosecutor is crediting genealogy databases with helping identify a suspect in the 1988 abduction, rape and killing of an 8-year-old girl, saying criminals should be worried about these powerful new crime-fighting tools.

John D. Miller, 59, was arrested Sunday on preliminary charges of murder, child molestation and criminal confinement in the killing of April Marie Tinsley. He’s due to be formally charged Thursday.

Investigators examined genealogy databases in the search for Tinsley’s killer, according to an affidavit filed Sunday. California investigators used the same approach to arrest Joseph DeAngelo in April for dozens of rapes and 12 killings in the 1970s and ‘80s.

Allien County Prosecutor Karen Richards said in the affidavit that investigators consulted with Parabon Nanolabs, a Virginia-based DNA phenotyping company that assists law enforcement organizations, and it narrowed DNA in the Tinsley case to two surviving brothers, including Miller. Miller’s brother had been accused of wrongdoing.



MICHELLE DAVIES, THE (FORT WAYNE, IND.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE/AP

A photo of April Tinsley was placed March 30 in the garden dedicated in her honor near where she disappeared in Fort Wayne, Ind. April 1 marked the 30th anniversary of her disappearance.

during a Tuesday news conference, but she said DNA evidence coupled with publicly available genealogical data should worry criminals.

“This case should tell them something,” she said. Tinsley disappeared after leaving her Fort Wayne home on April 1, 1988. She was found dead three days later in a ditch about 20 miles away.

Investigators said in the affidavit that Miller’s DNA matches DNA found on Tinsley’s underwear and on used condoms taken from trash at his home on July 9.

Miller’s DNA also matched DNA taken from three used condoms that were found in 2004 at locations in Fort Wayne and the adjacent town of Grabbill along with messages the killer apparently left 16 years after the crime, the affidavit stated.

Miller, who’s from Grabbill, is being held without bond.

Scientists find a dozen more moons at Jupiter

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Astronomers are still finding moons at Jupiter, 400 years after Galileo used his spyglass to spot the first ones.

The latest discovery of a dozen small moons brings the total to 79, the most of any planet in our solar system.

Scientists were looking for objects on the fringes of the solar system last year when they pointed their telescopes close to Jupiter’s backyard, according to Scott Sheppard, of the Carnegie Institute for Science in Washington. They saw a new group of objects moving around the giant gas planet but didn’t know whether they were moons or asteroids passing near Jupiter.

“There was no eureka moment,” said Sheppard, who led the team of astronomers. “It took a year to figure out what these objects were.”

They all turned out to be moons of Jupiter. The confirmation of 10 was announced Tuesday. Two were confirmed earlier.

The moons had not been spotted before because they are tiny. They are about 1 to 2 miles across, said astronomer Gareth Williams, of the International Astronomical Union’s Minor Planet Center.

And he thinks Jupiter might have even more moons just as small waiting to be found.

“We just haven’t observed them enough,” said Williams, who helped confirm the moons’ orbits.

The team is calling one of the new moons an “oddball” because of its unusual orbit. Sheppard’s girlfriend came up with a name for it: Valetudo, the great-granddaughter of the Roman god Jupiter.

Valetudo is in Jupiter’s distant, outer swarm of moons that circles in the opposite direction of the planet’s rotation. Yet it’s orbiting in the same direction as the planet, against the swarm’s traffic.

“This moon is going down the highway the wrong way,” Sheppard said.



Miller

WAR ON TERRORISM

ISIS making comeback in Iraq 7 months after win declared

By Liz Sly
AND MUSTAFA SALIM
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Islamic State is creeping back into parts of central Iraq just seven months after the government declared victory in the war against the group, embarking on a wave of kidnappings, assassinations and bombings that have raised fears a new cycle of insurgency is starting.

The small-scale attacks are taking place mostly in remote areas that have been neglected by the government and are chillingly reminiscent of the kind of tactics that characterized ISIS insurgency in the years before 2014, when the group captured a vast swathe of territory across Iraq and Syria.

The militants have since been driven out of all but two small pockets in Syria near the Iraqi border, where they are surrounded by U.S.-backed or Syrian government forces. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared “final victory” over ISIS in December, and President Donald Trump said in Helsinki on Monday that the battle was now “98 percent, 99 percent complete.”

The resurgence of violence, in a triangle of sparsely populated territory stretching across the provinces of Diyala, Kirkuk and Salahuddin, has prompted many Iraqis to question whether the victory they achieved is real.

Over the past two months, dozens of people, including local government officials, tribal elders and village chiefs, have been abducted and killed or ransomed by fighters claiming affiliation with ISIS. Electricity infrastructure and oil pipelines have been blown up. Armed men dressed as security forces and manning fake checkpoints have hijacked trucks and robbed travelers, rendering the

main Baghdad-Kirkuk highway unsafe for a period of weeks.

In one of the most sinister attacks, six members of the Iraqi security forces were captured at one of the fake checkpoints and forced to appear in a somewhat wobbly video. Kneeling before the black-and-white ISIS flag and flanked by two heavily bearded figures, the men took turns warning they would be killed if the Iraqi government did not release Sunni female prisoners. Days later, the bullet-ridden bodies of the men were found dumped in the area.

The video jolted Iraqis, stirring memories of the worst of ISIS’ excesses during the years that it ruled over its self-proclaimed “caliphate.” Traffic on the Baghdad-Kirkuk highway came to a near standstill as nervous travelers refrained from driving and instead booked flights, which sold out weeks in advance.

“Of course people are nervous,” said Imam Mahmoud, a member of the Diyala Provincial Council. “People finally thought there was stability and that they can travel wherever they want, and then there are these attacks and this video and people are afraid again.”

It was inevitable that ISIS would attempt a comeback after its crushing defeat, said Hisham al-Hashemi, an Iraqi counterterrorism expert based in Baghdad who advises the government. He said, “they are returning faster than I anticipated. That they have returned this fast is very

dangerous.”

He blames the government’s failure to deliver aid and reconstruction to an area that was among the first to be freed from ISIS control but has seen little in the way of assistance. “The Iraqi government did well on the military side but it didn’t do well in bringing stability to those areas. It is to the advantage of ISIS that the government has not implemented any of its plans.”

This latest iteration of the insurgency is a long way from being in a position to capture whole cities or control territory, analysts and military officials say. The Iraqi security forces have launched operations over the past two weeks aimed at rooting out the militants, and they have claimed some successes.

The government has declared that the Baghdad-Kirkuk road is now safe, and drivers and passengers who take the route say there are new checkpoints every kilometer. An operation this week by Iraqi and Kurdish security forces, backed by U.S. airstrikes, succeeded in eradicating an ISIS safe haven that had emerged in mountains near the town of Sinjar, where U.S. military said Tuesday in a statement.

The Iraqi security forces are in better shape today to contain the violence than they were in 2014, when whole divisions fled the ISIS advance, said Col. Sean Ryan, the U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad. “They’re just doing small-scale attacks because they don’t



AP

Demonstrators carry flags in front of the provincial government headquarters in Mosul, Iraq, in 2014. Islamic State is making a comeback in parts of central Iraq.

have large-scale abilities anymore,” he said. “But what they do have is the ability to scare the population. The fight is not over, and if people are putting their guard down, it’s a little too early.”

Although ISIS doesn’t control territory in the way it did before, it does appear to have freedom of movement across a large stretch of terrain and especially at night, said Michael Knights, a military analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The territory in question spans an area that was only briefly held by ISIS before forces mostly comprising Shiite militias swept through and drove the militants out in late 2014 and early 2015. But the fighting displaced tens of thousands of people, most of whom have not returned, leaving scores of largely destroyed, depopulated

villages scattered across inhospitable terrain.

These ghost towns offer a perfect environment for a guerrilla army to regroup, Knights said.

“It was very predictable that the ISIS guys would reboot the strongest in this area. These are the most difficult ungoverned spaces in Iraq for the Iraqi security forces to garrison, and it is also the place where ISIS has had the longest to regroup,” Knights added.

They appear to be acting in accordance with instructions issued in an April audiotape released by ISIS’ current spokesman, Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, in which he urged surviving ISIS fighters to conduct attacks targeting Iraq’s economic infrastructure and Iraqi Sunnis who collaborate with the government.

“This is a model they’ve maintained in the past, and it seems they’re moving ahead and gaining momentum,” said Renad Mansour of the London-based Chatham House think tank. “There’s a lot of frustration over why Abadi declared victory when it seems they are still there. It seems the insurgency is starting again.”

Col. Sean Ryan

U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad

‘The fight is not over, and if people are putting their guard down, it’s a little too early.’

Australia, New Zealand look into war crime allegations

By A. ODYSSEUS PATRICK
Special To The Washington Post

SYDNEY — Australian and New Zealand officials are examining allegations that members of their countries’ Special Forces units committed crimes in Afghanistan, including possibly carrying out executions of unarmed prisoners.

A senior Australian judge and a former New Zealand prime minister are conducting inquiries into separate but remarkably similar incidents during the war, which will soon enter its 18th year.

Australian media outlets, citing anonymous complaints by serving and retired soldiers, have reported that members of Australia’s Special Air Service Regiment may have killed prisoners while hunting for a soldier from the Afghan National Army who deserted after killing three Australian soldiers on a military base in southern Afghanistan in 2012.

Two years earlier, a unit of the New Zealand SAS — the British and Commonwealth equivalent of Navy SEALs or the U.S. Ar-

my’s Delta Force — led a raid on a village north of Kabul the SAS suspected was home to fighters responsible for a roadside bomb that had killed a New Zealand soldier.

Six civilians were killed and 15 injured in the raid, most of them women and children, according to a book by two New Zealand journalists, “Hit & Run: The New Zealand SAS in Afghanistan and the Meaning of Honour.” No enemy fighters were found, they wrote, contradicting the official account.

The U.S. military has been accused of numerous crimes against civilians in modern times, dating to the 1968 My Lai Massacre during the Vietnam War. Such allegations have been rare for Australian and New Zealand, which were drawn into the Afghan War through their military alliance with the United States.

Although Australia withdrew combat forces from Afghanistan in 2013, at one point it was the largest contributor outside NATO to the U.S.-led mission. New Zealand’s force was much smaller, although sent its most prestigious military unit, the SAS.

In Australia, a judge and a former head of the domestic intelligence service are conducting separate but related investigations into Australian soldiers’ behavior in Afghanistan and the changes made to improve the culture of the Army’s Special Forces.

The New Zealand government and military have taken similar steps, under the pressure of media coverage. This year, a former top judge and prime minister were asked to investigate the 2010 incident. The defense forces are also conducting a legal review of a battle six years earlier involving New Zealand’s most decorated soldier.

One sensitive aspect of the allegations in both countries is a connection to soldiers awarded the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth equivalent of the U.S. Medal of Honor.

In 2004, a New Zealand SAS unit was ambushed in a pre-dawn attack in southern Afghanistan by about 20 fighters, according to an official account. A corporal carried a severely injured colleague nearly 80 yards to safety while being shot at. He then returned to the fight and helped defeat the attackers.

The soldier, Willie Apiata, was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first New Zealander to be so honored since World War II. He became a national hero.

Last year, an online documentary suggested there was more to the battle than revealed in Apiata’s short, official citation for valor.

New Zealand defense officials are re-examining the case. “All of those allegations made in the documentary series are being looked at to see if they meet the threshold of well-founded allegation,” the chief of New Zealand’s defense force, Tim Keating, said last month, two weeks before he retired.

Several Australian media organizations including the Age newspaper reported recently that questions have been raised about the conduct in Afghanistan of an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, Ben Roberts-Smith, along with that of other soldiers.

The corporal served with the elite force in Afghanistan during six deployments between 2006 and 2012.

WORLD

Iran: Uranium stockpile reaches 950 tons

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran continues to acquire uranium and is close to finishing a factory where it can build more centrifuges to enrich it, the country's nuclear chief said Wednesday, adding also that uranium stockpiles have nearly doubled in the last few years.

The comments by Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, came as Tehran is in talks with major powers on preserving a 2015 deal meant to keep the country from developing nuclear weapons in the wake of President Donald

Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the accord.

Salehi said on state television that Iran has imported some 400 tons of so-called yellowcake uranium since the 2015 landmark nuclear deal, bringing its stockpile to between 900 and 950 tons — up from 500 tons.

Since the 2015 deal, Iran has purchased yellowcake from Kazakhstan and Russia, as well as mined its own domestically.

The accord allows for that, but limits Iran's enrichment of uranium to 3.67 percent, enough to use in a nuclear power plant but far lower than the 90 percent needed for an atomic weapon.

The U.S. pulled out of the deal in May, and since then the remaining countries —

Russia, China, Germany, France and Britain — as well as the European Union have been negotiating with Tehran to try and save the agreement with economic incentives and guarantees.

Following the U.S. withdrawal, Iran vowed to boost enrichment capacity to put pressure on the remaining signatories to live up to the agreement.

In addition to announcing the continued purchases from Russia and elsewhere, Salehi said Iran is also working on exploration to find additional resources inside the country to meet more uranium needs

domestically.

Salehi said Iran has also almost completed a factory aimed at building a new generation of centrifuge machines showed in June for the first time.

Also in June, Iran said it has restarted production at a "major" uranium facility involved in its nuclear program in the central city of Isfahan, which produces material needed to make enriched uranium.

Iran's only nuclear power plant in southern Iranian Bushehr, which went online in 2011 with the help of Russia, requires some 27 tons fuel per year.



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Coach "Ake" Ekkapol Jantawong, left, speaks Wednesday on behalf of the 12 boys and himself about their cave rescue during a press conference in Chiang Rai, northern Thailand.

Rescued Thai boy: 'This experience teaches me not to live life carelessly'

Associated Press

CHIANG RAI, Thailand — The 12 boys and their soccer coach rescued from a cave in northern Thailand left the hospital where they had been recuperating and appeared at a news conference Wednesday, saying the ordeal made them stronger and taught them not to live carelessly.

The group, looking healthy, entered the news conference to applause from reporters and classmates and put on a quick demonstration of their ball-handling skills on a miniature soccer field set up in the hall where they met journalists from around the world.

They then hugged their friends before taking seats up front with doctors and members of the Thai navy SEAL unit who helped bring them out, along with others who helped them during their ordeal, which ended after more than two weeks when they were rescued last week.

The boys, whose ages range from 11 to 16, and their 25-year-

old coach answered questions submitted by the media, including about the lessons they learned during their experience.

"I feel stronger, I have more patience, endurance, tolerance," said Mangkol Boonpim, 13. Adul Samon, 14, said, "This experience teaches me not to live life carelessly."

Several said they want to become professional soccer players, while four said they wanted to emulate the heroes who saved them. All said they want to apologize to their parents, most of whom they had not informed in advance about the trek to the cave after soccer practice.

"I know my mom is going to punish me and I am in big trouble with my mother," one of the boys said when asked what he expected to happen when he got home.

Doctors said the 13 boys were healthy in body and mind. They said the boys gained around 6.6 pounds on average since they were rescued from the cave. They were said to have lost an average of 9 pounds during the more than two weeks

they were trapped in the cave.

The news conference was the first opportunity the members of the team had to speak directly to the media, though video of them was released previously. Officials reviewed questions in advance to make certain no one might cause damaging psychological effects.

The Wild Boars team had entered the Tham Luang cave on June 23 for what was to be a quick, relaxing excursion after soccer practice. But rain began falling while they were underground, and water filled the caverns, cutting off their escape.

The family of one of the boys was preparing their home for his return Wednesday night.

Banphot Konkum, an uncle who has raised Duangphet Promthep, 13, said he'll have a renovated bedroom and gifts awaiting him.

"We'll do whatever he wants. If he wants anything we'll buy it for him as a present as we promised that when he gets out, whatever he wants we'll do it for him," Banphot said.

Symbolic Nicaraguan area back in government hands

Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaraguan police and armed pro-government civilians on Tuesday laid siege to and then retook a symbolically important neighborhood that had recently become a center of resistance to President Daniel Ortega's government.

Government forces began advancing on Masaya's Monimbo neighborhood before dawn and had largely regained control of it by the afternoon for the first time since massive protests against Ortega's government began in mid-April.

Youths fired homemade mortars from behind barriers of stacked paving stones parked from streets lined by single-story homes and artisan workshops in the town about 16 miles southeast of the capital.

But they were overwhelmingly outgunned by government loyalists who within hours had advanced to the heart of the neighborhood and began posting videos on social media of themselves firing semi-automatic rifles into the air in celebration.

Alvaro Leiva, director of the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association, said Tuesday that there were preliminary reports of three people killed in the fighting and dozens of wounded. There were also widespread reports of youth hauled away by pro-government fighters.

The same neighborhood's residents rose up against strongman Anastasio Somoza in the late 1970s as part of the Nicaraguan Revolution led in part by Ortega. But since protests against cuts to the social security system in mid-April became a broader call for Ortega to leave office, Monimbo had again become a center of the opposition.

Ortega's government has dismissed opponents as delinquents attempting a coup d'état and wanted to quell unrest in Masaya before Thursday, which marks three months since the start of protests across Nicaragua. Thursday is also the 39th anniversary of Liberation Day, which marks the overthrow of the Somoza regime in 1979 by the Sandinistas.

Police roadblocks prevented journalists from entering Monimbo.

Lab-grown burger company gets funding for '21 sales goal

Associated Press

BERLIN — A Dutch company that presented the world's first lab-grown beef burger five years ago said Tuesday it has received funding to pursue its plans to make and sell artificially grown meat to restaurants from 2021.

Mosa Meat said it raised \$8.8 million, mainly from M Ventures and Bell Food Group. M Ventures is an investment vehicle for German pharmaceuticals company Merck KGaA. Bell Food is a European meat processing company based in Switzerland.

Maastricht-based Mosa Meat said it hopes to sell its first products — most likely ground beef for burgers — in 2021. The aim is to achieve industrial-scale production two to three years later, with

a typical hamburger patty costing about \$1.

Environmentalists have warned that the world's growing appetite for meat, particularly in emerging economies such as China, isn't sustainable because beef, pork and poultry require far greater resources than plant-based proteins. Cows in particular also produce large amounts of greenhouse gas that contribute to global warming.

The big challenge is making meat that looks, feels and tastes like the real thing.

Mosa Meat uses a small sample of cells taken from a live animal. Those cells are fed with nutrients so that they grow into strands of muscle tissue.

The company claims it could make up to 80,000 quarter pounders from a single sample.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



CAPE MAY, N.J., POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

Bean, a pug dog, has her mugshot taken.

Pug's mugshot posted; bail is paid in cookies

NJ CAPE MAY — A dog is home after police in a New Jersey shore town posted its mugshot on social media.

Cape May Patrolman Michael LeSage found Bean the pug in a yard Sunday. He told The Star-Ledger of Newark he tried to get the dog to hop into his police car, but her legs were too short so he had to lift her.

Police posted a photo of Bean on Facebook with the caption: "This is what happens when you run away from home." It took a few hours before Bean's owners tracked her down.

Hadley Hubbard, of Baltimore, posted that Bean was sound asleep after an exciting run.

LeSage posted that Bean paid her bail in cookies.

Man's 20-mile walk to work earns new car

AL PELHAM — An Alabama college student whose car broke down just before his first day of work made the 20-mile journey on foot, a feat that earned him fame — and a new car.

News outlets reported that hours before his first day working for Bellhops movers, Walter Carr set out from Homewood at midnight, making it to Pelham by 4 a.m. Friday.

Cient Jenny Lamey said Carr declined her offer to rest, instead getting straight to work.

Impressed by the Hurricane Katrina refugee's work ethic, she started a GoFundMe that's raised more than \$6,600. When Bellhops CEO Luke Marklin learned about his new employee, he drove his own car from Tennessee on Monday to surprise Carr with it.

Denali photograph by Adams up for auction

AK FAIRBANKS — An iconic image of an Alaskan landscape taken by renowned American photographer Ansel Adams is up for auction.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported the original black and white photograph of Denali and Wonder Lake is being sold in an online auction that ends Thursday.

The photograph featuring North America's tallest mountain was taken at Denali National Park. The image mounted on board was printed in 1948 and has an estimated value of \$4,000 to \$6,000.

THE CENSUS

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The distance in feet Gregg Peterson, 22, of Highlands Ranch, Colo., tossed a piece of dried bison dung to win the men's 18-and-older division at the World Championship Buffalo Chip Throw contest during the Fur Trade Days celebration in Chadron, Neb., on Saturday. His toss fell short of the men's record of 204 feet set by Kail Bowman in 1990. Ashton Hallsted, of Casper, Wyo., had a toss of 105 feet, 7 inches to win the women's 18-and-older division.



BEYNN ANDERSON/AP

Under an Umbrella Sky

A woman takes a selfie at an art installation called Umbrella Sky on Monday in Coral Gables, Fla., the third city in the U.S. to host the project. The installation continues over the next two months.

Town ends 'Footloose' ban on Sunday dancing

AR FORT SMITH — A western Arkansas city has a message for residents: Kick off the Sunday shoes.

Fort Smith city directors recently repealed a 1953 ordinance that essentially outlawed public dancing on Sundays.

City Director Andre Good introduced the repeal after a resident told him about the so-called "Footloose" ordinance, nicknamed for the 1984 movie starring Kevin Bacon about a town that banned dancing and rock music.

The ordinance outlawed the operation of public dance halls or any place with dancing on Sundays.

Weeping Virgin Mary statue investigated

NM LAS CRUCES — The Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces continues to investigate a Virgin Mary sculpture in a

Hobbs church that appears to be weeping.

The sculpture, which stands in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, has been attracting attention worldwide since visitors first reported the fluid in May.

Bishop Oscar Cantu, of the diocese, said a sample of the fluid collected from the sculpture was sent for chemical analysis, and it was determined that it was olive oil, the Las Cruces Sun-News reported.

An investigation is under way to determine whether there was a natural cause behind the liquid found on the hollow bronze sculpture, Cantu said.

Tweet inspires 'Blue Cheese Dressing Day'

NY BUFFALO — The founder of Buffalo's annual chicken wing festival is offering foodies another reason to indulge — with the creation of National Blue Cheese Dressing Day.

The inaugural celebration was Monday.

Founder Drew Cerza, known

as Buffalo's "wing king," said the idea for a national holiday grew from a tweet sent out on National Ranch Dressing Day in March. The post from Frank's RedHot sauce paired buffalo wings and ranch dressing.

In Buffalo, where the appetizer was created, blue cheese is the preferred dip for wings.

Stolen firetruck stopped after wild chase

CA SACRAMENTO — Police chased a stolen firetruck across four Northern California counties during a wild high-speed pursuit that lasted nearly two hours and ended with two suspects under arrest.

Officials said the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District truck worth about \$1 million was taken from the scene of a small grass fire Saturday.

The truck reached 70 mph as it sped about 85 miles through Sacramento, Placer, Yuba and Butte counties.

It was eventually stopped on State Route 70 near Lake Oroville

and a man and a woman were arrested. No other details about the suspects were available.

Metro Fire spokesman Capt. Chris Vestal told the Sacramento Bee the truck has to be towed back for extensive repairs.

Woman impaled by beach umbrella on Jersey shore

NJ SEASIDE HEIGHTS — Police said a London woman was impaled by a beach umbrella on the New Jersey shore.

The Asbury Park Press reported Margaret Reynolds, 67, was at Seaside Heights on Monday afternoon when part of the umbrella pierced her right ankle and was driven completely through due to the "force of the wind."

Borough Police Chief Tommy Boyd said fire crews had to use a bolt cutter on the umbrella to free the woman and put her in an ambulance.

Authorities have not released further details.

From wire reports

FACES



In his own words

Photos courtesy of HBO

The documentary "Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind" airs on AFN-Spectrum on July 23 at 12:05 a.m.

Robin Williams speaks for himself in new HBO documentary

By BROOKE LEFFERTS
Associated Press

When filmmaker Marina Zenovich sought to make a documentary about Robin Williams, she found that she could do it largely in the late comedian's own voice.

"Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind" uses a wealth of archival footage to put viewers inside his thought process — mirroring a routine Williams used as an up-and-coming comic in the 1970s.

The film, which includes interviews with David Letterman and Billy Crystal, premiered Monday on HBO and is available on its streaming service, HBO Now. Friends and relatives, including Williams' son Zak, also share memories.

"I get sad when I think about Billy and Robin because when I interviewed him (Crystal), you could really feel a sense of loss," the filmmaker said. "I love the line in the movie when he says, 'Everyone wanted something from him. I had no agenda. I just liked him.'"

The piece is intended to celebrate the artist, Zenovich said, and her team "handcrafted" it with love. It was often difficult to choose among the hundreds of clips and routines.

"What's so great is hearing people say the film is so inspiring. It's so joyful. And I don't know, it touches on something deep. I mean, it's about so many things. It's about fame, the effects of fame. It's about talent and kind of someone with an amazing talent, watching his trajectory."

Zenovich said she wants people to have a greater understanding of Williams and what he tried to do "and how generous he was and what a great mind he had."

Williams suffered from dementia caused by Lewy body disease and killed himself in August 2014 at age 63. Williams received four Academy Award nominations and won for 1997's "Good Will Hunting."

Zenovich previously made two documentaries on director Roman Polanski.

5 things gleaned from 'Come Inside My Mind'

■ He was a classically-trained actor, and came in handy

Williams got into improvisational theater because it was the only course offered at his all-men's college that also had female students. Williams later enrolled at Juilliard in New York, and dove into comedy in California after he couldn't get serious acting work.

In his first paid comedy gig, the microphone died. So he went right into the audience, doing crowd work and improvising bits. Thanks to his theater training, he could project his voice with no problem.

■ David Letterman was initially wary

Williams first met David Letterman in the Los Angeles comedy scene of the 1970s. "When we first saw Robin on stage, we were skeptical, and we made it kind of a project to keep our eye on him," Letterman recalls. "In my head, my first sight of him was that he could fly because of the energy. It was like observing an experiment."

■ He got his big break thanks to "Star Wars" and an 8-year-old

"Happy Days" creator Gary Marshall noticed his 8-year-old son Scott was no longer watching his TV show. "There's no space-man on it," Scott Marshall told his dad.

So Gary Marshall asked the writers to work in a space-man character. Scott's aunt, Ronnie, was in charge of casting and sug-

gested a comedic street performer for the role. And boom: Williams came to "Happy Days" as Mork, an episode that earned a standing ovation from the studio audience.

Eventually, ABC gave the character his own show with "Mork and Mindy."

■ He's the reason behind the four-camera sitcom

Before Williams starred in "Mork and Mindy," multi-camera sitcoms relied on three cameras. But then came this kinetic actor who was running around the set and improvising, and the cameramen would fail to capture the antics that came when he wasn't hitting his pre-determined marks.

So Gary Marshall added a fourth, almost hand-held camera to follow Williams. Four cameras became the standard for sitcoms.

■ John Belushi's death had a huge impact on him

Williams was one of three people with the famously hard-partying Belushi the night he died following an overdose of cocaine and heroin.

According to the documentary, Belushi's sudden death led to Williams, who had been heavily drinking and doing drugs as well, sobering up.

"Here's this guy who was a beast, who could do anything and he's gone," Williams said.

— The Washington Post

Chris Christie to 'set record straight' in book

Associated Press

Chris Christie has a book coming out next year, and he doesn't plan on holding back.

Hachette Books confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the former New Jersey governor's "Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics" is scheduled for next January 29.

According to a statement from Hachette, Christie plans to "set the record straight" on his time as a key Trump campaign supporter in 2016 and being "unceremoniously booted" from the transition team after Trump's upset victory. He will offer "revealing, candid and surprising insights into the public and private Trump, drawn from 15 years of close friendship," the statement continued.

Christie also promises the "full story" on the Bridgegate scandal that upended his time as governor and badly damaged his reputation after he had been re-elected in a landslide in 2013. A lane closure scheme at the George Washington Bridge, alleged punishment to a Democratic New Jersey mayor for not backing Christie, became national news at the end of 2013 and a defining part of his legacy.

"I've had a wild ride up till now — there's no denying that," Christie, now a commentator for ABC News, said in a statement. "But I have so much more to do for our country and so much more to say. 'Let Me Finish' is my first chance to begin to put it all out there."

Destiny's Child singer Williams seeks mental health help

Destiny's Child singer Michelle Williams says she's seeking help for the depression she has struggled with for years.

Williams said in an Instagram post Tuesday that she has "sought help from a great team of health care professionals."

She gave no specifics on her treatment.

Williams' post says that for years she has dedicated herself to increasing awareness of mental health and empowering people to seek help. She says she recently decided to listen to the advice she has given, and wants to lead by example in seeking treatment.

The 37-year-old Williams was a core member of Destiny's Child, the trio with Beyoncé Knowles and Kelly Rowland that sat atop the R&B world from 1997 to 2006.

Other news

■ British rock icon Cliff Richard was arrested on 210 charges (\$273,000) in damages Wednesday after winning a privacy lawsuit against the BBC for its coverage of a police raid at his home. Richard had sued the broadcaster for its coverage of the 2014 raid, when police were investigating alleged sex offenses. The coverage included a helicopter that circled the star's home as authorities conducted a search. The 77-year-old singer was never arrested or charged with any crime.



Christie



Marina Zenovich
Documentary director



Williams, in 2012

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OPINION

Trump's imbalances are going unchecked

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

Surely, now, we can concede that letting Trump be Trump has exhausted itself — even among the smugly credulous.

For a year and a half, we've heard his supporters say: Watch what he does, not what he says. Sure, he's rude and crude, they said, but he's going to make America great again.

No, he's not.

Nor was he ever, notwithstanding a column I wrote just before Election Day, saying that America would survive no matter who won. My optimism was based solely on faith in the U.S. Constitution and the inherent checks and balances prescribed therein. To be wrong would mean that the checks aren't being applied when imbalances occur.

We are there.

President Donald Trump, rather than holding a hard line with Russian President Vladimir Putin at their summit in Helsinki, essentially sided with the enemy by attacking U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies regarding their solidly conclusive finding that Russian hackers interfered with the 2016 presidential election. (Trump tried to backtrack Tuesday afternoon, saying that he does, in fact, accept the intelligence community's findings on Russian meddling.)

The two leaders all but held hands during a news conference Monday as each dismissed the idea that Russia wants to undermine American democracy — and that the Robert Mueller investigation into possible collusion between Russian operatives

and the Trump campaign has any legs to stand on. This despite Mueller having just last Friday issued 12 indictments against Russians believed to be involved in hacking the computer networks of Democratic organizations. Are we to believe that these two known liars were telling the truth or hadn't agreed to a script during their private, one-on-one meeting?

On Sunday, Trump, in his usual manner, blamed the Democrats for having a weak defense system against hacking. On Tuesday, he again waved the "fake news" flag, blaming the media for unfavorable coverage. The experience surely found him further with Putin, who favors a state-run media and rules a nation where journalists who become troublesome are often killed.

Between Trump's antipathy toward the First Amendment, which he previously has expressed by warning the weaker — and his stated desire that "my people" sit up at attention when he speaks, as his North Koreans did during his visit with Kim Jong Un — the president has made his dictatorial proclivities clear. That said, such inclinations may more accurately reflect a severe narcissism, fearing the weaker than a conscious desire to subjugate the American people. Given Trump's paltry understanding of world affairs or his role as president, he quite possibly aligns himself with thugs as a means to man-up, as they say, and correct some sense of impotence that persists despite his impressive excess.

Consider Trump's reply when challenged about his dubious posture toward American intelligence agencies. "I have great confidence in my intelligence people," he said, "but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his final day-to-day."

Trump said what he always says about Russia

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special To The Washington Post

Even President Donald Trump's supporters sometimes yearn for his critics and say the words they want him to use, the traditional talking points that establish Washington and the media embrace. In Charlottesville, condemn the racists and stop talking. In speeches, stick to the teleprompter. In Helsinki, look at Russian President Vladimir Putin and tell him — oh, maybe something like "cut it out," which was known to earn President Barack Obama a pass.

Instead, in Helsinki, Trump said exactly what he always says on the subject of foreign interference in the 2016 election, to wit, Putin denies it, there was no collusion, it's a witch hunt, and what about Hillary Clinton's server and her 30,000 missing emails? What got him into hot water was repeating that mantra with Trump standing at his side.

Career politicians would have known better. Trump only knows how to be who he is and say what he thinks, regardless of who's on the other end. It was hardly "treasonous" or "impeachable," as too many cable TV talking heads and Twitter commentators hysterically declared. But it was a diplomatic blunder that will detract from an otherwise appropriate outreach designed to lower tensions between superpowers. And even in reversing his comments on Tuesday, who knows what Wednesday will bring, if history is any guide.

Just as wrong as Trump's news conference performance was the insistence from some quarters that he should have traveled to Helsinki to publicly humiliate Putin, which would have been another example of meaningless political theater. What Trump

knows is that the endless attention on election interference (it used to be "collusion," but that's fading away) is connected not to real concern over the sovereignty of our democracy, but rather to the fact that the wrong candidate won. It's why he has trouble feigning outrage over it.

Foreign interference in our elections did not begin in 2016, but you can be forgiven if you don't know that. The media largely yawned about it in 2008 and 2012, but there were a few isolated stories.

In May 2013, Time magazine reported that in August 2011 the Obama campaign learned that "foreign nation-states were trying to gain access to the campaign's databases and social media accounts with extraordinarily sophisticated means."

The article added that the same was true for the Romney campaign, which was "under constant attack." The National Republican Congressional Committee was also later targeted. While no one would confirm or deny the media's long-suspected, "one Obama campaign staffer said she was warned about the threat from China in particular."

The story noted that similar efforts had been detected back in 2008 when "both the Obama and McCain campaigns were 'Ne ver confirmed or denied the media's long-suspected, 'one Obama campaign staffer said she was warned about the threat from China in particular.'"

Consider that last point — the hacks were "largely overlooked" in the wake of "Obama's historic victory." In other words, no big deal. The right candidate won. No special counsel needed. No more ink or

Note "my" intelligence people, plus the obvious lie about confidence. And the words "strong," "powerful" and "denial." This is Trump in four words: self-absorbed, impressed by authority and at home in denial. This makes him easily unlikable to a majority of Americans but not necessarily treasonous as some have charged out of proper outrage. Treason, frankly, sounds a little high-minded for such a reckless, clueless vaudevillian.

Where does this leave us? What might one deduce from the Helsinki summit? Either Trump is too inept to continue as president, or his predatory nature, as demonstrated in his business — not to mention his boasting about aggression toward women — has led to his collecting rogues to enhance his own power. Or both. In any case, he has stepped over all lines of acceptable presidential behavior and presents a clear and present danger to the United States.

When our chief executive, whose principal job is to defend both the Constitution and the nation against aggressors, stands alongside our chief geopolitical foe and betrays two of our most important institutions in the name of his own ego, he has dimmed the lights in the shining city on a hill and left the world a far darker place.

It's often said that America is great because America is good. My faith in the institutions and the individuals who conferred upon us a vital role in the history of humankind is a secular religion. But a cancer lies among us, and the good people of this country must be precise in its excision. If Republicans don't do it now, Democrats likely will sweep the ballots in November and do it then.

History will note when, and by whose hand, America ceased to be great.

airtime wasted on the subject. No sanctions suggested. The breadth and width of foreign interference will probably never be known, since there was no pressure for additional scrutiny, as happened in 2016. But in 2016, Trump was, of course, the wrong winner, and his narrow, upset victory made Russian interference wall-to-wall news, all day, every day, which, in turn, made Russia's goal of sowing discord and distrust among Americans wildly successful.

A New York Times article earlier this year noted that career intelligence veterans were not overly alarmed at Russia's attacks in 2016. Loch K. Johnson, a renowned intelligence scholar, told the Times that Russia's 2016 operation "was simply the cyber-age version" of what the United States itself has long done. Johnson said: "We've been doing this kind of thing since the CIA was created in 1947. We've used posters, pamphlets, mailers, banners — you name it. We've planted false information in foreign newspapers. We've used what the British call 'King George's cavalry': suitcases of cash."

Everyone quantifies such admissions with a reminder that there is no "moral equivalency" — the United States interferes in elections for the right reasons, and it's done to us for the wrong reasons.

But enough Russian interference in 2016 was quickly weaponized politically, even Trump's supporters sometimes wish he would just say the words that will make everyone happy. But Trump seldom grants such small favors, and hysteria ensues. Calm will eventually be restored — until next time, which will no doubt arrive any day.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

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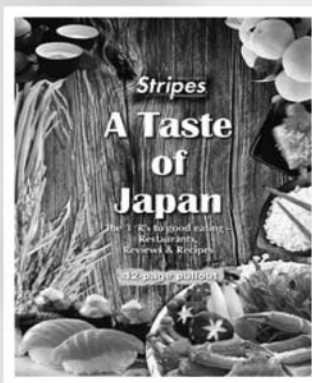
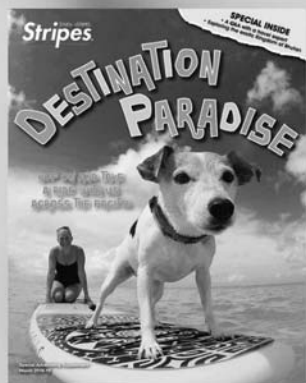
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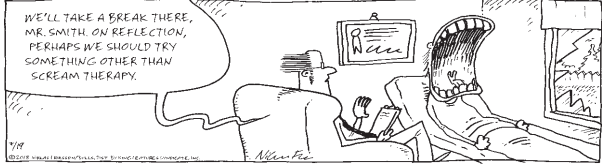
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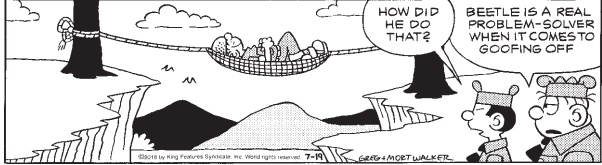
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Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
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		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

ACROSS

- 1 Eve's man
- 5 Hanoi holiday
- 8 Bygone Peruvian
- 12 "Damn Yankees" vamp
- 13 Past
- 14 Legendary loch
- 15 Latin love
- 16 Burst
- 17 Roman 512
- 18 Do a slow burn
- 20 Ninny
- 22 Stubborn
- 26 Deadly
- 29 Granola grain
- 30 Raw rock
- 31 Messes up
- 32 Picnic crasher
- 33 Fishing rod
- 34 Earl Grey, for one
- 35 From — Z
- 36 Like some flared skirts
- 37 No-worry situation
- 40 "Funny!"
- 41 Finally
- 45 Craving
- 47 Lincoln or Ford
- 49 Wrinkled fruit
- 50 Pisa farewell
- 51 Sweetie
- 52 Blacken on a grill
- 53 Vegas game

DOWN

- 1 "Sad to say ..."
- 2 Stadium top
- 3 Skin soother
- 4 Stewart and Graham
- 5 Become narrower
- 6 Conceit
- 7 "Let's see you do better!"
- 8 Agra's land
- 9 Neighboring
- 10 Hit CBS series
- 11 "— was saying ..."
- 19 "2001" computer
- 21 Drench
- 23 Blood giver
- 24 Perry's creator
- 25 Monopoly card
- 26 Big party
- 27 Balliwick
- 28 Refuse holder
- 32 Embassy worker
- 33 "Bring your favorite dish" meal
- 35 Bat wood
- 36 Retrieve
- 38 Bumpkin
- 39 Merits
- 42 Turkish title
- 43 Blind part
- 44 Lose energy
- 45 "Nasty!"
- 46 Dead heat
- 48 MSN rival

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	U	B		E	P	A	
C	O	T	E		X	A	L
M	U	R	A	L		M	E
G	R	A	H	A	M		C
R	E	L	B	E	E	T	S
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			S	G	T		
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7-19

CRYPTOQUIP

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J Z G D B D A J N . J G ' P P G A E C L
S E C X C .

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BRITISH OPEN

Back at the nasty links of Carnoustie

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Carnoustie is known as much for the calamity it causes as the British Open champions it crowns.

Any mention of Carnoustie immediately brings back that image of Jean Van de Velde, equal parts tragedy and comedy, standing in Barry Burn on the 18th hole with water up his shins and rising. He made triple bogey to lose a three-shot lead, and then completed as great a collapse as can be found in a major championship by losing in a three-man playoff in 1999.

Just don't get the idea Van de Velde owns all the rights to bad endings at Carnoustie.

Jose Jurado was the first victim.

He had a three-shot lead going into the final round in 1931 and was still two shots clear late in the round until coming undone in the brutal closing stretch, topping one shot on the 17th hole into the burn. He lost out to Tommy Armour.

More recently was Pádraig Harrington, only it worked out well for him in 2007. Playing the 18th with a one-shot lead, the Irishman hit his tee shot into the Barry Burn. He took a penalty drop and then hit his next shot into the winding stream. Harrington managed the best double bogey of his life. It got him into a playoff when Sergio Garcia made bogey from the bunker, and Harrington went on to win his first major.

Of the six previous Opens on these menacing links, Ben Hogan is the only winner to hold a 54-hole lead.

For most everyone else, Carnoustie always seem to dish out its share of carnage. Rod Pampling once opened with a 71 and missed the cut. Phil Mickelson still hasn't seen a weekend at Carnoustie. Garcia made his major debut as a professional at Carnoustie. He shot 89.

"That's a brutal course," Bernhard Langer said. He speaks from experience in 1999, when Langer had his third-highest score of the 23 Opens he completed. He shot 297, and he tied for 18th that week.

The first time Tiger Woods went an entire round without a birdie in a major was in 1999 at Carnoustie.

"I think I made one birdie on the weekend and I finished three or four back of the playoff," Woods said. "That was ridiculous how hard it was."

One month after Shinnecock Hills was punishing as ever in the U.S. Open, golf's oldest championship doesn't figure to be much of a reprieve. Scotland has been going through a warm, dry patch of weather, which figures to make it firm and bouncy.

Mickelson, who played Carnoustie a week before the Open, said it was unlikely he would even carry a driver.

"I'm either going to carry a driver or that hot 3-wood, but there's only two or three holes — there's actually only two holes I plan on using it, both par 5s. I have a low 1-iron that I've been putting in the bag and ... it's very low. Gets on the ground quick. I'll hit that on probably the last ten holes, almost every hole."

Carnoustie in any conditions is regarded as a beast, with a reputation as the toughest links in the world. Sir Michael Bonallack, the former R&A secretary, might have sized it up the best when he said, "When the wind is blowing, it is the toughest course in Britain. And when it's not blowing, it's probably still the toughest."

In recent Opens, it has picked up a nickname: Car-nasty.

For so much of the field, it will be a new experience. Only two players from the top



PHIL NOBLE/AP

Pádraig Harrington looks down at where his ball landed in the Barry Burn during the final round of the 2007 British Open at Carnoustie, Scotland. Carnoustie is known more for the calamity it causes than the British Open champions it produces. Harrington hit into the burn twice on the 18th hole, made double bogey and still won in a playoff.



AP

Jean Van de Velde smiles as he stands in the water of the Barry Burn that crosses the 18th fairway to see if his ball, bottom center, was playable during the final round of the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie. Van de Velde's calamity is the most famous collapse of all.

10 in the world have played a British Open at Carnoustie — Justin Rose and Rory McIlroy, who was an 18-year-old amateur in 2007 and immediately showed his potential when he opened with a 68. He tied for

42nd that week.

Only 33 players in the 156-man field have played an Open at Carnoustie, and only 12 have played it twice.

Defending champion Jordan Spieth only knows it from television.

He was 13, just starting to blossom as a junior, and he watched the Open from home as Garcia and Harrington tried to survive the finish.

"I remember ... how good of a score par was on that hole and will continue to be for Opens going forward," Spieth said. "It's one of probably the toughest closing holes in the Open Championship anywhere, and that creates some drama when it comes down to Sunday, as we've seen. And I don't think it will be any different this year."

"When the wind is blowing, it is the toughest course in Britain. And when it's not blowing, it's probably still the toughest."

Sir Michael Bonallack
former R&A secretary

its mean streak from the way the course was set up in 1999, with narrow fairways and high grass. But its strength comes from the wind, like most links courses, and this course near the North Sea is particularly exposed.

It measures 7,402 yards, which is 19 yards shorter — yes, shorter — than it was in 2007, the last time the Open was at Carnoustie.

Spieth will try to become the first player in 10 years to repeat as British Open champion, and right now he'd simply settle for a chance. Since his closing 64 at the Masters to finish third, Spieth has finished at least 12 shots out of the lead in four of his seven tournaments. He missed the cut in

the other three.

Like most majors these days, the Open figures to be wide-open.

Dustin Johnson, who lost a four-shot lead over the final two rounds at Shinnecock, is back to No. 1 in the world and eager to pick up another major. He has not played since the U.S. Open. The next three players behind him in the world ranking — PGA champion Justin Thomas, Rose and U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka — all have a chance to replace him at No. 1.

Recent history would suggest a young American — the last five majors have been won by Americans in their 20s.

"It's definitely been pretty one-sided, and the Americans are dominating," Rose said. "So it would be lovely to turn that around next week."

Woods is happy to get another crack at it.

Carnoustie was his first experience with links golf in 1995, when he was still at Stanford and came over for the Scottish Open at Carnoustie ahead of the British Open at St. Andrews. He opened with a 69, closed with a 78 and finished 48th.

"Carnoustie is an unbelievable driving golf course," Woods said. "You have to drive the ball well there, but also it's not your traditional (in and) out golf course. It's a lot of different angles, so a lot of different crosswinds. I have to be able to maneuver the golf ball both ways there efficiently. You just have to hit the golf ball well."

There is no faking. Nothing comes easily. No one really conquers Carnoustie. It's more about survival.

The highest compliment might have come from Tom Watson, who won his first major at Carnoustie in 1975 in a playoff over Jack Newton.

"Carnoustie is like an ugly, old hag who speaks the truth no matter how painful," Watson once said. "But it's only when you add up your score, you hear exactly what she thinks of you."

BRITISH OPEN

20 years after Birkdale, Rose has unfinished business

BY STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

CARNOSTUIE, Scotland — It's been 20 years since Justin Rose, his slight frame shrouded by a baggy red sweater, holed out for eagle to secure a tie for fourth place at the British Open.

He was just a kid then — a 17-year-old amateur seemingly with the golfing world at his feet — but it remains his best finish at his home major.

Rose doesn't understand why. "I'm kind of comfortable with how bad my record's been here," Rose said Tuesday,

two days before the British Open starts at Carnoustie, "...and I don't feel like there's a reason for it, either."

Since that iconic moment at Royal Birkdale in 1998, he's won a major title, an Olympic gold medal and two World Golf Championships, all while becoming a Ryder Cup stalwart for the European team.

He has also risen to No. 3 in the world rankings and could even get to No. 1 with a win this week.

It means his poor British Open record really does jump out from an otherwise impressive resumé.

The thing is, Rose is comfortable play-

ing links golf. He won the Scottish Open in 2014 on a links course at Royal Aberdeen and feels he has done well at the Dunhill Links Championship, an annual European Tour event played over the links at St. Andrews, Kingsbarns and Carnoustie.

He also said he is playing the most consistent golf of his career "by far." So maybe this could be his year.

"I couldn't think of a better time to turn it around and to sort of bring everything full circle, if you like, and lift the claret jug," Rose said. "Take it any year, but 20 years has a nice ring to it."

This is the latest opportunity for Rose

to become the top-ranked golfer, a feat not achieved by an Englishman since Luke Donald in August 2012.

"I've really said that I want to get to world No. 1 by winning golf tournaments," Rose said. "There could be opportunities in the next six months — I could get there by finishing seventh somewhere because there's always permutations — but I want to get to world No. 1 by winning."

If Rose wants a pre-Open boost, the past two winners played their opening two rounds with the previous year's champion. Rose will set out Thursday with defending champion Jordan Spieth.

Top contenders



JUSTIN ROSE

Age: 37.
Country: England.
World ranking: 3.
Worldwide victories: 20.
Majors: US Open (2013).
2018 Majors: Masters-T12, US Open-T10.

British Open memory: Holing out a wedge for par on the 18th hole at Royal Birkdale in 1998 when he tied for fourth as an 18-year-old amateur.

Backspin: Twenty years after he made his memorable Open debut, Rose will have a chance to reach No. 1 in the world. He has not missed a cut since the PGA Championship, and he has six top 10s in his 11 starts this year. Driving and iron play are his strengths, and they are critical at Carnoustie.



JUSTIN THOMAS

Age: 25.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 2.
Worldwide victories: 9.
Majors: PGA Championship (2017).
2018 Majors: Masters-T17, US Open-T25.

British Open memory: Making a 9 on the sixth hole at Royal Birkdale last year, and being seen on television cutting the shots on his fingers.

Backspin: He already has backed up last year with two victories this season and reached No. 1 in the world. Thomas is mentioned frequently as a player who shows impressive control of his shots in the wind when he plays in south Florida.



TOMMY FLEETWOOD

Age: 27.
Country: England.
World ranking: 10.
Worldwide victories: 5.
Majors: None.
2018 Majors: Masters-T17, US Open-T2.

British Open memory: Bouncing back from an opening 76 before a home crowd at Royal Birkdale to make the cut on the number.

Backspin: Closed out the U.S. Open with a record-tying 63 despite missing birdie putts of 12 feet and 8 feet on the last three holes. He shows up big in the biggest tournaments against the strongest fields. Fleetwood set the course record at Carnoustie last year in the Dunhill Links Championship with a 63.



BROOKS KOEPKA

Age: 28.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 4.
Worldwide victories: 6.
Majors: US Open (2017, 2018).
2018 Majors: Masters-DNP, US Open-1.

British Open memory: Telling the R&A he was not going to keep playing at St. Andrews because his golf ball wouldn't stay still on the putting surface in 2015. **Backspin:** Missed four months with a wrist injury, and didn't miss a step in his return. He became the first player in 29 years to win back-to-back U.S. Opens. Koepka seems to play his best golf in the majors because they get his attention.



TIGER WOODS

Age: 42.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 69.
Worldwide victories: 90.
Majors: Masters (1997, 2001, 2002, 2005), US Open (2000, 2002, 2008), British Open (2000, 2005, 2006), PGA (1999, 2000, 2006, 2007).
2018 Majors: Masters-T32, US Open-Cut.

British Open memory: Winning at St. Andrews in 2000 to complete the career Grand Slam at age 24.

Backspin: Woods has had moments where he looked capable of winning this year. But he struggled in the two majors. He was never closer than seven shots at the Masters and missed the cut at the U.S. Open.



DUSTIN JOHNSON

Age: 34.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 1.
Worldwide victories: 18.
Majors: US Open (2016).
2018 Majors: Masters-T10, US Open-3.
British Open memory: Hitting a 2-iron out-of-bounds on the 14th hole at Royal St. George's when he was making a Sunday charge in 2011.

Backspin: He has two victories and two runner-up finishes this year, and he thought he had another U.S. Open title until his putter went cold on the weekend at Shinnecock Hills. He is tough to beat as long as he doesn't get frustrated if the putts don't go in early.



RORY McILROY

Age: 29.
Country: Northern Ireland.
World ranking: 8.
Worldwide victories: 22.
Majors: US Open (2011), British Open (2014), PGA Championship (2012, 2014).
2018 Majors: Masters-T5, US Open-MC.

British Open memory: Winning at Royal Liverpool in 2014.

Backspin: A year that began with promise when he won at Bay Hill has the trappings of frustration. He failed to convert from playing in the final group at the Masters with a shot at the career Grand Slam. Since then, he has contended just one time.



JORDAN SPIETH

Age: 24.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 13.
Worldwide victories: 15.
Majors: Masters (2015), US Open (2015), British Open (2017).
2018 Majors: Masters-3, US Open-Cut.

British Open memory: His birdie-eagle-birdie birdie stretch at Royal Birkdale to win last year for the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

Backspin: Spieth seems to fall off in the even-numbered years, and this is no exception. Not only has he failed to win, his only serious chance was at the Masters when he started the final round nine shots behind.



PATRICK REED

Age: 27.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 13.
Worldwide victories: 6.
Majors: Masters (2018).
2018 Majors: Masters-1, US Open-4.
British Open memory: Opening with a 78 in his British Open debut at Royal Liverpool.

Backspin: No one talked about a Grand Slam until the Masters champion had a share of the lead in the final round of the U.S. Open. The Masters remains his only victory this year. Reed has been leading the Race to Dubai in Europe since his Masters victory.



SERGIO GARCIA

Age: 38.
Country: Spain.
World ranking: 19.
Worldwide victories: 28.
Majors: Masters (2017).
2018 Majors: Masters-Cut, US Open-Cut.

British Open memory: Watching a 10-foot putt to win lip out at Carnoustie in 2007 and then losing a playoff to Padraig Harrington. **Backspin:** Garcia hasn't made the cut in a major since the British Open last year. Carnoustie holds two bad memories: crying in his mother's arms after an 89 in 1999, and the playoff loss to Harrington in which he said he was playing against more than the field.

BRITISH OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS

Woods likes his chances for major on links course

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

CARNOSTUIE, Scotland — Tiger Woods doesn't feel as old at the oldest championship in golf.

Back at the British Open for the first time in three years, Woods broke from his tradition on Tuesday morning. Instead of being among the first on the tee for practice, he didn't show up at Carnoustie until his news conference just before lunch. Then, he played nine holes with Masters champion Patrick Reed and Bryson DeChambeau.

This was not a case of a 42-year-old needing his rest.

Entering the year having not played any major since the end of 2015 and the start of three back surgeries, Woods has been feeling better as 2018 has gone on. And there's something about links golf that inspires him.

"It's my favorite type of golf to play," Woods said. "I love playing here, this type of links golf, or a style of links golf down on the Aussie sand belt ... because it is creative. We're not going to get the most perfect bounces. And I think that's the fun challenge of it."

He made his links debut at Carnoustie in 1995 as an amateur at the Scottish Open, a week before his British Open debut at St. Andrews. He hasn't contended on the back nine in the previous Opens at Carnoustie, in 1999 and 2007, though he wasn't far from a playoff.

"You get to places like Augusta National, where it's just a big ballpark, and the golf course outgrows you, unfortunately. That's just the way it goes. But a links-style golf course, you can roll the ball. Distance becomes a moot point."

Tiger Woods
Three-time British Open champion

park, and the golf course outgrows you, unfortunately. That's just the way it goes. But a links-style golf course, you can roll the ball. Distance becomes a moot point."

That said, distance is everything at Carnoustie this year, which Woods discovered when he arrived Sunday.

How far the ball travels in the warm, dry air is not the issue. It's how far it travels once it gets on the baked turf.

Dustin Johnson discovered that when he arrived on Saturday and reached the 499-yard 18th hole, with a stiff breeze at his back and fairways running



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Tiger Woods practices on the driving range ahead of the British Open in Carnoustie, Scotland, on Wednesday. Woods is playing the British Open for the first time since he missed the cut in 2015 at St. Andrews. "You don't have to be long to play on a links-style golf course," Woods said.

only slightly slower than they did on the weekend at Shinnecock Hills.

He hit driver into the burn. The next day, his drive was a few yards short of the burn.

"I hit some irons, and depending on the wind, I'll probably hit anywhere from ... I've hit 3-wood, 3-iron and 4-iron off the tee," Johnson said. "I like all of them."

With the wind at his back on the 513-yard 14th hole, Johnson hit 3-iron and wedge.

One thing hasn't changed about links golf — it's best to keep the ball out of the pot bunkers, which effectively are a one-shot penalty. The question for so many players is whether that means going down to as little as a 7-iron off the tee (such as the 350-yard third hole) or smashing driver over all the trouble.

Johnson figures he'll hit driver on half of the holes. U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka might hit as many as nine drivers.

The conditions are as brittle as Muirfield in 2013, though most comparisons are with Hoylake in 2006, when Woods won the Open for the second straight time by hitting driver only one time all week.

"There's not a lot of opportunities to hit the driver just because the ball is going to be rolling 80 yards," Woods said. "It's just hard to keep the ball in play. Even hitting sometimes 4- and 5-irons, they've been running 50, 60 yards. It's going to be an interesting test to see which clubs we're going to be using off the tees, and a lot of it is dependent on which way the wind blows."

Woods had a 2-iron built for him specifically for the British Open, and he wonders how much he'll even use it. That has been too much club off the tee. Instead, most of his shots are with a 3-iron or 4-iron.

Reed was familiar with conditions there Woods won at Hoylake, even though he was only 15. Reed won the Junior British Open that summer at Heshall, not far from Royal Liverpool. It was not only dry but extremely hot, and Reed was in rain pants because he didn't like wearing shorts.

"I'll never forget hitting the first tee shot and being as young as I was, getting up there, and it was 308," Reed said. "And I was just like, 'Wow, I just hit a drive over 300 yards.' And now I'm hitting 2-irons over 360."

Briefly

Sky pushes Thomas, Froome into 1-2 slots

Associated Press

LA ROSIERE, France — British rider Geraint Thomas won the first summit finish of the Tour de France and claimed the yellow jersey on Wednesday with Team Sky asserting its dominance.

Four-time champion Chris Froome moved up to second overall, 1 minute, 25 seconds behind Thomas, his teammate.

Thomas attacked on the last of four climbs over the short but grueling 11th stage, powered past longtime breakaway leader Mikel Nieve in the final kilometer, and finished 20 seconds ahead of Tom Dumoulin.

Froome crossed third, just behind Dumoulin, who moved up to third overall, 1:44 behind.

Froome is attempting to match the record of five Tour victories shared by Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain.

Greg Van Avermaet, who had won the yellow jersey since his BMC squad won the team time trial in Stage 3, lost contact midway through the stage and finished far behind.

While there were numerous attacks throughout the 108.5-kilometer (67-mile) stage, Sky calmly rode at its own pace and slowly caught most of the breakaway riders before Thomas kicked into action with 6 kilometers remaining.

Thomas wore the yellow jersey for four days last year — before dropping to second behind Froome — then crashed out on a descent in Stage 9.

"To wear the yellow jersey is always a massive honor," Thomas said. "To do it two years in a row is really special."

Thomas has been one of Froome's most loyal lieutenants for years and Sky labeled him a co-leader with Froome for this year's Tour. So it will be interesting to see how the team handles the duo now.

More climbing fireworks are expected in Stage 12 on Thursday. The last of three legs in the Alps follows a 175.5-kilometer route beginning in the ski resort of Les Arcs and culminating in the famous 21 bends to Alpe d'Huez.

MLB: Hader must take sensitivity training

WASHINGTON — Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Josh Hader will be required to go through sensitivity training after years-old racist and homophobic tweets of his resurfaced during the All-Star Game, Major League Baseball said Wednesday.

MLB announced that the commissioner's office would require Hader to participate in diversity and inclusion initiatives in addition to the sensitivity training. In a statement, Brewers general manager David Stearns said the team would continue to work through the issue with Hader. Several of Hader's tweets from

2011 and 2012 came to light Tuesday night while Hader was pitching in the All-Star Game. Hader learned of the situation when he left the game, apologized and took responsibility for the tweets, saying they did not reflect his values or the person he is now.

The 24-year-old Hader said he did not "vividly" remember the tweets.

"Being 17 years old, you make stupid decisions and mistakes," Hader said Tuesday night. "I was in high school. We're still learning who we are in high school. You live and you learn. This mistake won't happen again."

ACC head expects rule on reporting injuries

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner John Swofford expects an eventual new national rule requiring colleges to list all inactive or ineligible college players for game day following the recent Supreme Court ruling striking down a federal law barring gambling on college sports.

Swofford doesn't anticipate the rule will be established until the 2019 season, he said Wednesday at the ACC Kickoff media days.

"I think that is critically important and would not only include injuries but if there is disciplinary action where a player is suspended for a game for whatever reason, that would need to be a part of it as well," Swofford said. "I think that reduces to some degree people you don't really want coming around players and managers and doctors and anybody associated with the program, or coaches, and trying to get information in an underhanded kind of way."

Star CB Revis retiring after 11 NFL seasons

Darrelle Revis, a star cornerback with the New York Jets and a Super Bowl winner with their archrivals, the Patriots, has retired.

Revis announced Wednesday on social media that he was retiring after an 11-season career that included four NFL Pro Bowl selections.

In other NFL news:

■ The Los Angeles Rams have agreed to a five-year extension with wide receiver Brandin Cooks.

The Rams traded their first- and sixth-round picks in the 2018 draft to the New England Patriots for Cooks and a fourth-round pick earlier this year.

■ Dallas Cowboys defensive end Randy Gregory, who was suspended the last season over multiple violations of the NFL's substance-abuse policy, was reinstated Tuesday.

Gregory can join the Cowboys at training camp in California next week and will be eligible for games as long as he continues to meet the terms of his reinstatement, the league said.

NBA/MLB



ERIC GAY/AP

Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard handles a ball before a game against Phoenix in January. San Antonio and Toronto have reached an agreement on a trade that will send Leonard to the Raptors and DeMar DeRozan to the Spurs. The Spurs also are sending Danny Green to the Raptors as part of the deal.

Spurs sending Leonard to Raptors for DeRozan

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

The Kawhi Leonard saga in San Antonio is finally over. So is DeMar DeRozan's time in Toronto.

An NBA summer blockbuster got pulled off Wednesday, with the Spurs sending Leonard to the Raptors — weeks after the disgruntled 2014 NBA Finals MVP asked for a trade — as part of a deal that also has DeRozan leaving Toronto for San Antonio. The Spurs also got Jakob Poeltl and a 2019 protected first-round draft pick, while the Raptors acquired Danny Green.

For Leonard and the Spurs, there's finally closure to a relationship that obviously was fractured beyond repair and devolved into a soap opera as the season went along. For DeRozan, who has often professed his love for Toronto, the initial reaction seemed to be one of anger and frustration.

"Ain't no loyalty in this game," DeRozan wrote in an Instagram story that appeared in the wee hours of Wednesday, around the time that ESPN and Yahoo Sports reported that the trade was approaching the imminent stage. "Sell you out quick for a little bit of nothing..."

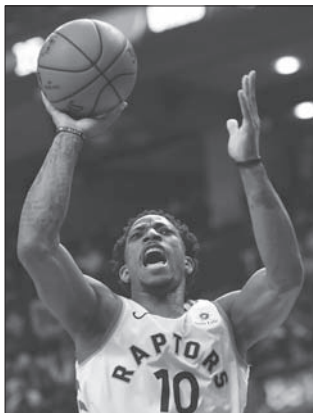
DeRozan did not specifically reference the trade in that post. But his message didn't exactly need translation.

The trade is a huge, and potentially risky, move for both teams.

Leonard appeared in only nine games for the Spurs last season because of a somewhat mysterious right leg injury — and the level of severity was something that even some of his now-former teammates reportedly questioned last season while San Antonio was trying to qualify for the Western Conference playoffs. Leonard's health status, even now, is publicly unknown.

Plus, he can be a free agent next summer. When he asked the Spurs for a trade weeks ago, it was made clear that he wants to play for the Los Angeles Lakers. That means the Raptors are entering into this deal knowing that they could have given up a star like DeRozan for someone who might not be in Toronto for long.

DeRozan has led the Raptors in scoring in each of the last five seasons. He was key to Toronto winning 59 games and securing the No. 1 seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs last season. But after getting swept in the second round by Cleveland, the Raptors decided massive changes were necessary



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan scores against Cleveland during an Eastern Conference semifinal game in May. San Antonio and Toronto agreed to a trade that will send DeRozan to the Spurs for Kawhi Leonard. DeRozan has led the Raptors in scoring in each of the last five seasons.

— first the firing of coach of the year Dwane Casey, and now the trading of a perennial All-Star who once famously declared "I am Toronto."

Leonard's injury last season was described as right quadriceps tendinopathy, and the Spurs listed him as out on their injury reports for much of the year, citing "injury management." During the 2016-17 season, he averaged a career-best 25.5 points and was third in the MVP voting.

Both DeRozan and Leonard are scheduled to appear in Las Vegas next week at a USA Basketball training camp — one that will be led by Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

Amid talk of rule changes, hints of a work stoppage

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball wants a broad discussion with players about rule changes to combat decreased offense and longer games, an initiative likely to be met by a testy union stung by declining free-agent prices and already raising the possibility of a work stoppage after the 2021 season.

Commissioner Rob Manfred and players' association head Tony Clark outlined their differing agendas during separate sessions with the Baseball Writers' Association of America before Tuesday night's All-Star Game.

"There is a growing consensus or maybe even better an existing consensus among ownership that we need to have a really serious conversation about making some changes to the way the game is being played," Manfred said. "We are not at the point where I can articulate for you what particular rule changes might get serious consideration. I can tell you the issues that concern people: I think that the period of time between putting balls in play, the number of strikeouts, to a lesser extent the number of home runs, the significance of the shift and what it's done to the game, the use of relief pitchers and to a lesser extent the number of home runs, the significance of the shift and what it's done to the game, the use of relief pitchers are going to be used."

Clark repeatedly maintained players are reluctant to change as "stewards of the game."

"We may get to a point where those coming to the ballpark or have an interest in coming to the ballpark for whatever reason aren't 100 percent certain that what they are seeing is the type of game that they want to see," he said.

More than 100 free agents remained unsigned when spring training began this year. Many agreed to deals at a fraction of the price they thought they were worth and for fewer years than they expected.

"What we experienced last off-season was a direct attack on free agency, which has been a bedrock of our economic system, and if that is going to be different, then we have some very difficult decisions to make moving forward," Clark said.

Baseball had eight work stoppages from 1972-95 but has had labor peace since. The current five-year contract runs through the 2021 season, and Clark left open a possible return to the era of strife.

"To the extent there are challenges to those rights, historically I would suggest those have manifested themselves in a particular way," he said.

The union filed a grievance in February against Miami, Oakland, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay, accusing the teams of failing to appropriately spend revenue-shar-

ing money in an effort to improve their on-field product. Manfred dismissed the allegations, saying the grievance was filed "really for publicity reasons."

Manfred said the lack of interest in free agents was due to the death of quality.

"At the end of the year you'll look at the performance of those players," he said, "I'm pretty sure, based on what's already in the books, you're going to make the judgment that the clubs made sound decisions as to how those players should be valued."

Management is alarmed by what is taking place on the field. Strikeouts (24,537) are on track to surpass hits (24,314) for the first time. Strikeouts also are likely to set a record for the 12th straight season, and this year's average of 17.9 per game is up from 12.6 in 2005. The current big league batting average of .247 would be the lowest since 1972.

There have been 20,587 shifts on balls in play, according to Baseball Info Solutions. That projects to a full-season total of 34,668 — up 29.8 percent from last year and an increase from 6,882 for the entire 2013 season. That has decreased the batting average of stars such as Washington's Bryce Harper, who is hitting just .214.

And the average attendance of 28,568 is down from the 30,159 at the break last year, when the final figure was 30,042. MLB has not dropped below 30,000 since 2002.

Manfred blamed early season bad weather.

"We've made up some ground," he said. "We were down as much as 8, 9 (percent) early, we were back to like 5.5 percent down, and I'm optimistic."

Lack of competitiveness among rebuilding teams also is a likely factor. Three teams are on track to lose 100 or more games, which would match the record set in 2002, and five others are on a pace for 90 or more defeats.

Clark called the attendance drop "dramatic" and said while weather is partly to blame "the concerns that fans have in regards to the competitive integrity piece is one of them" along with "players being moved from teams that fans have a connection with."

While he wouldn't cite teams for tanking, he said it appears many clubs are deciding to rebuild if analytics tell them they can't compete to win the World Series.

"This is only what I am hearing. It's not nearly as many decisions against the backdrop of what they believe their roster is going to yield and the landing place of where their team is going to be at the end of the year, that those data points suggest if you're not in a particular place, then it may make more sense not to look to be in the last team standing," he said.

ALL-STAR GAME

Home runs lift AL in 10 innings

Astros teammates Bregman, Springer win it with back-to-back jacks

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A record 10 home runs. A slew of strikeouts.

The all-or-nothing All-Star Game mirrored what baseball has become.

Astros teammates Alex Bregman and George Springer homered on consecutive pitches to begin the 10th inning, and the American League beat the National League 8-6 Tuesday night for its sixth straight win.

"To kind of empty your tank and hit homers tonight at this event is probably the best thing imaginable," said AL manager A.J. Hinch of Houston. "Just to have that kind of emotion that comes with the home run, especially when the big boys hit it and especially when the Astros hit it."

Mike Trout, Aaron Judge and Jean Segura also connected for the AL in a game where every run except one scored on a homer.

Scooter Gennett hit a tying two-run shot off Seattle closer Edwin Diaz in the bottom of the ninth. Joey Votto, Wilton Contreras, Trevor Story and Christian Yelich also homered for the NL.

There had never been more than six homers in an All-Star Game since Babe Ruth hit the very first one in 1933.

One of the homers came off Milwaukee's Josh Hader. After the game, the 24-year-old reliever took responsibility for racist and homophobic tweets that resurfaced while he was pitching.

Hader said he was immature at age 17 when several of the tweets were posted. Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem said he had spoken to Hader, and the league would have no comment before Wednesday.

"There's no excuse for what was said," Hader said. "I'm deeply sorry for what I've said and what's been going on. It doesn't reflect any of my beliefs going on now."

While several sluggers went deep, not everything went their way. Starters Max Scherzer and Chris Sale and the relievers combined to fan 15 in the first 4½ innings, and there were 25 strikeouts overall.

Fitting because this season is on pace to become the first with more strikeouts than hits, a year after a record number of home runs.

"You're facing power pitchers right now, so that's kind of what you expect: hit-or-miss with these guys," Boston's J.D. Martinez said.

Martinez, who leads the majors in homers and RBIs, singled and struck out in his two at-bats.

Orioles shortstop Manny Machado had fun, pulling out a camera to snap a selfie at second base after Matt Kemp dodged. By Wednesday, they could be teammates — Baltimore seems ready



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Houston Astros' Alex Bregman holds the MVP trophy Wednesday after the 89th All-Star Game at Nationals Park in Washington. Bregman's 10th-inning home run helped the American League win 8-6.



ALEX BRANDON, ABOVE, AND PATRICK SEMANSKY, LEFT/AP



Above: The Cincinnati Reds' Scooter Gennett celebrates his two-run homer in the ninth inning that tied the game. Left: Astros outfielder George Springer homered one pitch after Bregman in the 10th.

an update that's not appealing to everyone.

"Some of us are going to get them and they're going to get us. It's just how it goes," Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman said.

Declining attendance is a concern, and the sport's owners worry that slower games with less action on the bases are taking a toll.

A day after hometown star Bryce Harper electrified the crowd by winning the Home Run Derby, it was eerily quiet for most of the evening at Nationals Park. Harper didn't excite the fans, either, fanning in his two at-bats.

The popular Presidents Race drew the biggest cheer in the middle innings, with the big-headed George Washington character prevailing.

The only thing missing was a bevy of defensive shifts. With overloaded infielders now the norm, Hinch and NL manager Dave Roberts of the Dodgers pretty much played things straight up.

Bregman and Springer homered off losing pitcher Ross Stripling of the Dodgers — that's kind of how last year ended, too, with Houston battering Los Angeles pitchers in the World Series.

Bregman smiled all around the bases and earned MVP honors. He's familiar with this city, his grandfather having been the general counsel for the old Washington Senators.

"My dad grew up on Ted Williams' lap. So to see Ted Williams Most Valuable Player on this trophy is pretty special," Bregman said.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	68	30	.694	—
New York	62	33	.653	4½
Tampa Bay	49	47	.508	17
Toronto	42	52	.453	23½
Baltimore	39	55	.412	26½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	52	43	.547	—
Minnesota	44	50	.468	7½
Detroit	41	57	.418	12½
Chicago	33	62	.347	19
Kansas City	27	68	.284	25
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	64	35	.646	—
Seattle	58	39	.598	5
Oakland	45	42	.519	8
Los Angeles	49	48	.505	14
Texas	41	56	.422	22

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	53	42	.558	—
Atlanta	52	42	.553	½
Washington	48	48	.500	5½
Miami	41	57	.418	13½
New York	39	55	.415	13½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	55	38	.591	—
Milwaukee	52	43	.561	2½
St. Louis	48	46	.511	7½
Pittsburgh	49	49	.500	9
Cincinnati	43	53	.448	13½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	53	43	.552	—
Arizona	53	44	.546	½
Colorado	51	45	.531	2
San Francisco	50	48	.510	4
San Diego	40	59	.404	14½

Tuesday's game

AL 8, NL 6, 10 innings

Thursday's game

St. Louis (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 6-8)

Friday's games

Baltimore (Bundy 6-9) at Toronto (Gavrilto 2-3)

Boston (Price 10-6) at Detroit (Boyd 4-8)

Cleveland (TBD) at Texas (Perez 2-4)

Minnesota (Gibson 4-2) at Kansas City (Duffy 2-8)

Houston (Keuchel 7-8) at L.A. Angels (TBD)

Chicago White Sox (TBD) at Seattle (LeBlanc 5-1)

St. Louis (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (TBD)

N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 5-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Gerran 2-5)

San Diego (Richard 7-8) at Philadelphia (TBD)

Miami (Straily 3-4) at Tampa Bay (Eovaldi 3-4)

Pittsburgh (Taillon 6-7) at Cincinnati (Mahle 7-7)

A.D. Dodgers (TBD) at Milwaukee (TBD)

San Francisco (Rodriguez 4-1) at Oakland (Jackson 1-1)

Colorado (Marquez 8-8) at Arizona (TBD)

Tuesday AL 8, NL 6

American League					National League				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Betts lf	3	0	0	0	Baez Jr.	2b	3	0	1
Brantley cf	2	0	1	0	Albies 2b	3	0	1	0
Altuve 2b	3	0	0	0	Arenado 3b	2	0	0	0
Lowrie 2b	2	0	0	0	Suarez ph	3b	0	0	0
Trout cf	2	1	1	0	Wendel 3b	0	0	0	0
Haniger rf	2	0	0	0	Molina ph	dh	0	0	0
Martinez Jr.	2	0	0	0	Aguilar ph	dh	0	0	0
Cruz ph	dh	0	0	0	Greenman 1b	2	0	0	0
Chapman ph	dh	0	0	0	Wright ph	1b	3	1	1
Ramirez Jr.	3	0	0	0	Montero 1b	0	0	0	0
Bregman ph	3	1	1	1	Yelich ph	3	1	1	1
Judge lf	3	1	1	1	Harper cr	3	0	0	0
Springer ph	dh	2	2	2	Blackmon cf	1	0	0	0
Machado ss	2	0	0	0	Marksakis rf	1	0	0	0
Ulinor ph	dh	1	0	0	Wendel 3b	0	0	0	0
Segura ph	ss	2	2	2	Crawford ss	2	0	0	0
Abruzzo 1b	0	0	0	0	Story ph	ph	1	1	1
Meschino 1b	0	0	0	0	Wendel 3b	0	0	0	0
Perez 5c	2	0	0	0	Realuto ph	c	1	1	1
Gomes ph	1	0	0	0	Wendel 3b	0	0	0	0

National League

DP—American League 3, National League 1. LOB—American League 8, National League 7. 2B—Kemp (1), HR—Judge (1), Trout (1), Segura (1), Ginnett (1), Springer (1), Bregman (1), Votto (1), Contreras (1), Story (1), Yelich (1), Votto (1).

AL							NL						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Sal	1	1	0	0	0	1		2	2	1	1	1	4
Silverino, H	0	0	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	1
Snell, H	0	1	1	1	2	3		1	0	0	0	0	1
Jimenez, H, 13	1/3	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Berrios, H, 0	1	0	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	0
Treinen, H, 0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Morton	2	2	2	2	1	1		1	0	0	0	0	0
Haz, W, 0-2	1	1	1	2	2	1		1	0	0	0	0	0
Haz, S, 0-1	1	1	1	1	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	0
AL							NL						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Scherzer	2	2	1	1	1	4		2	2	1	1	1	4
Jeffress	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Foltynewicz	1	1	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	1
Nola	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Jepp	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Vazquez	1	1	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	1
Hader	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Hand	1	1	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	1
Stripling, L, 8-2	13 1/3	4	3	3	3	3		1	0	0	0	0	1
Inherited runners—scored—Jimenez	3	3	3	3	3	3		1	0	0	0	0	1
W-0, Hand 1-0	2	2	1	1	1	1		1	0	0	0	0	0
1-0, Hand 1-0	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
WP—Morton	7	3	3	4	4	4		1	0	0	0	0	0

ALL-STAR GAME

Machado appears headed to Dodgers

Orioles shortstop may have found new home in LA

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Los Angeles Dodgers are making preparations to welcome Manny Machado into their pennant race.

Los Angeles entered the All-Star break with a narrow half-game lead over second-place Arizona in the NL West, and there's a good chance the Dodgers will begin play Friday in Milwaukee with a four-time All-Star at shortstop.

Machado will undoubtedly be dealt by the Baltimore Orioles before the July non-waiver trade deadline, and speculation is centering on a Wednesday swap with Los Angeles.

"I had a conversation with Manny. He's a great guy, man, and we would love to have him here," Dodgers All-Star pitcher Kenley Jansen said Tuesday night.

The Dodgers begin a 10-game road trip out of the break, and they'd love to have Machado dressed in Dodger blue.

"I think the sky's the limit. We can do damage," Jansen said. "Let's see what's going to happen."

If Machado heads to the Dodgers, he will likely get to wear his coveted No. 13, now worn by first baseman Max Muncy.

"He deserves that number," Jansen said.

In spite of the media that followed him every move, Machado did his best Tuesday to enjoy himself. He walked the red carpet shirtless in a double-breasted suit, took a couple of selfies on the field and smiled through six innings of carefree baseball.

When he was done, Machado peeled off his Orioles uniform for perhaps the final time.

Then he walked out of Nationals Stadium



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

The Orioles can't afford to give a huge contract to Manny Machado and rebuild a team that sits in last place in the AL East.

um with his family, not bothering to stick around after the game to answer another round of questions about a potential trade that would end his stay in Baltimore — perhaps before the Orioles return from the break to play in Toronto on Friday night.

In the meantime, Machado was the center of attention before and during the first All-Star Game in Washington since 1969.

A huge media throng buzzed around his locker prior to batting practice. During BP, Machado joked with Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp outside the cage.

Then came the game. Machado went 0-for-2 — a fly ball and a popup — before exiting for a pinch hitter in the sixth inning.

Walking out toward the exit ramp, Machado ran into Nick Markakis, a longtime former teammate now with the Atlanta Braves. They hugged, shook hands and walked away.

Earlier, the pair crossed paths on the field.

"I ran up to him and he started reaching into his pocket. I didn't know what he was doing," Markakis said. "Pulled out his

phone. We took a picture on the field. It was a pretty cool moment. Pretty cool for him to do. I enjoyed my time playing with him. He's a great teammate, a great dude. Whatever happens with him after today, I wish him luck."

It appears as if Los Angeles is going to be the place to be for Machado, who's batting .315 with 24 homers and 65 RBIs.

"Things are getting serious now," Dodgers right-hander Ross Stripling said. "That's the kind of bat and the kind of player that you want in your lineup."

Dominant: Shifts may be causing trend

FROM BACK PAGE

hits (24,314) for the first time and are likely to set a record for the 12th straight season. This year's average of 17.0 per game is up from 12.6 in 2005. The current big league batting average of .247 would be the lowest since 1972.

And the average of 2.28 homers per game is just below the record 2.51 set last year.

"Standard operation nowadays, right? We're going to homer and punch-out as an industry," said Astros manager A.J. Hinch, who led the AL to victory. There's a great love affair with both results."

Among 90 plate appearances, 44 ended in a home run, strikeout (25) or walk (nine), at 48.9 percent the highest in All-Star history, according to STATS.

"I don't really want to see guys shorten up and slap the ball around the infield just to avoid a strikeout. That doesn't excite me," said Colorado's Charlie

Strikeouts (24,537) are on track to surpass hits (24,314) for the first time.

Blackmon, who won the NL batting title last year while hitting 37 home runs. "I don't mind strikeouts. That doesn't mean I want guys swinging way out of the zone, but it doesn't bother me."

Many cite shifts as the cause of the, well, big shift in offense, transforming groundballs that once were hits into outs. There have been 20,587 shifts on balls in play, according to Baseball Info Solutions. That projects to a full-season total of 34,668 — up 29.8 percent from last year and an increase from 6,882 for the entire 2013 season.

"There is a growing consensus or maybe even better an existing consensus among ownership that we need to have a really serious conversation about making some changes to the way the game is

being played," Manfred said. "We are not at the point where I can articulate for you what particular rule changes might get serious consideration. I can tell you the issues that concern people: I think that the period of time between putting balls in play, the number of strikeouts, to a lesser extent the number of home runs, the significance of the shift and what it's done to the game, the use of relief pitchers and the way starting pitchers are going to be used."

When it comes to change, players are Luddites. Union head Tony Clark maintained his members are "stewards of the game" and are resistant to tinkering with the rules for fear of unintended consequences.

"We may get to a point where



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

With fireballers like Washington Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer on the mound, hitters are more likely to swing for the fences.

those coming to the ballpark or have an interest in coming to the ballpark for whatever reason aren't 100 percent certain that what they are seeing is the type of game that they want to see," Clark said.

Home runs bring the crowd to its feet, especially by the home

team. Think back to the 1998 Nike advertisement with Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, titled "Chicks Dig the Long Ball." The Yankees' Aaron Judge started the barrage with a second-inning solo shot off Scherzer.

"I know the fans enjoy seeing these homers," Judge said.

SPORTS



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ALL-STAR GAME

FEAST — OR — FAMINE

New York Yankees
outfielder Aaron Judge
hits a solo home run
during the second inning
of the All-Star Game on
Tuesday in Washington.

PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON/AP

No in-between: Strikeouts, homers dominate diamond

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Boom or bust. This is what baseball has become — and that has owners worried.

"It's just kind of what it is: home runs and strikeouts," Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Ross Stripling said.

Stripling had just given up 10th-inning home runs on consecutive pitches to Houston's Alex Bregman and George Springer on a night players combined for 10 longballs, nearly double the previous All-Star record.

Last fall, you may remember, the Dodgers and Astros totaled 25 home runs in the World Series, four more than had ever been hit before in a Fall Classic.

"It's extremely tough to manufacture hits these days, especially with the shift,"

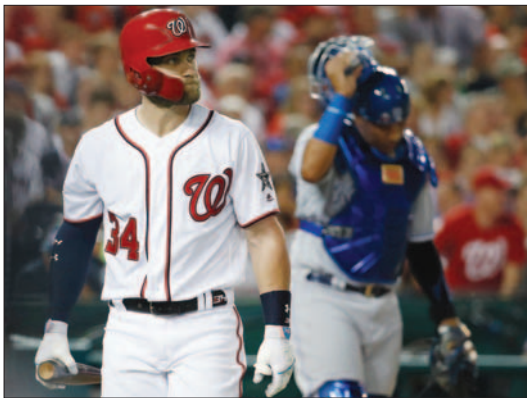
Stripling said after the American League's 8-6 win Tuesday night. "I certainly understand that's where the game's going, and so I think this game encapsulated that."

It took until the 344th pitch for a run to be driven in on something other than a homer, Michael Brantley's tack-on sacrifice fly that boosted the AL's lead to 8-5. Joey Votto added the final home run in the bottom half, four more than the previous All-Star mark.

"Everybody's throwing 97 to 100," Washington ace Max Scherzer, the NL starter, said in a reference to pitch velocity. "You're not going to string three hits together like that. So everybody's just swinging for the fence."

Hours earlier, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred was expressing alarm. Strikeouts (24,537) are on track to surpass

SEE DOMINATE ON PAGE 31



Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper walks off the field after striking out during the fourth inning. Harper went 0-for-2 Tuesday after winning the Home Run Derby on Monday.

Inside: Astros teammates Bregman, Springer hit back-to-back homers in 10th inning to lift AL over NL, Page 30

Spurs trade Leonard to Raptors for DeRozan » Page 29

